Background

_Erythranthe filicifolia_ (Sexton, K.G. Ferris & Schoenig) G.L. Nesom is an annual herb in the Phrymaceae known only from the northwestern Sierra Nevada. It was described by Sexton et al. in 2013 and is therefore not included in _The Jepson Manual_ (Thompson 1993) and _The Jepson Manual, Second Edition_ (Thompson 2012); the Phrymaceae treatment in the _Flora of North America_ is not yet published. _Erythranthe filicifolia_ was originally described as _Mimulus filicifolius_ and swiftly transferred to the genus _Erythranthe_ by Nesom (2013) with preparation of the treatment of _Erythranthe_ in the _Flora of North America_. _Erythranthe filicifolia_ was described in a study by Sexton et al. (2013) comparing the north Sierra Nevada populations of what was previously identified as _Erythranthe laciniatus_ (a California Rare Plant Rank 4.3 species: http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/detail/1093.html) with the central Sierra Nevada populations of _E. laciniatus_. They collected and analyzed morphological data from all known herbarium specimens of _E. laciniata_ s.l. that contained enough adequate material to study, and concluded that through strongly differing morphological characters, reproductive barriers, and divergent evolution, the northern populations made up a species that is distinct from _E. laciniatus_. _Erythranthe filicifolia_ is distinguished from _E. laciniatus_ in having strongly bi-pinnately and finely divided leaves (vs. laciniate to occasionally bi-pinnate leaves with oblanceolate lobes), clasping entire, ovate floral node bracts (vs. bract bases long tapered to petioled and bracts narrowly lanceolate to pinnately lobed), and pedicels that are less than two times the calyx length (vs. often having pedicels two times the calyx length or longer). The epithet _filicifolia_ (meaning fern-leaved) refers to its strong and finely compound leaf structure (Sexton et al. 2013). _Erythranthe laciniata_, found primarily in the central to southern Sierra Nevada, is also geographically separated from _E. filicifolia_, which is found primarily in the northern Sierra Nevada approximately 140 air km away.

_Erythranthe filicifolia_ mostly occurs in slow-draining, ephemeral seeps among exfoliating granite slabs within a mixture of chaparral and lower montane coniferous forest, at an approximate elevation of 415-1,710 meters. It primarily grows alongside _Cheilanthes gracillima_, _Heterocodon rariflorum_, _Penstemon newberryi_, and _Selaginella wallacei_, and is known to bloom from April to June (Sexton et al. 2013).

_Erythranthe filicifolia_ is known from an estimated ten occurrences comprised of 17 collections in the Feather River watershed. Of the ten occurrences, three are considered historical (occurrences not seen in over 20 years are considered historical by the CNDDB). Eight occurrences are located in the Plumas National Forest, while the remaining two occurrences are located on private land. Sexton et al. (2013) did not conduct extensive searches in attempts to locate new populations of _E. filicifolia_ within suitable habitat, and additional suitable habitats within the region should be searched in case other populations exist.

Sent to: SN, G. Nesom, S. Schoenig, J. Sexton on 03/23/2016
While there are no documented threats to *Erythranthe filicifolia*, it is primarily found in granitic seeps and is therefore possibly threatened by prolonged drought. Since there are few known populations of *E. filicifolia*, with some being small and occurring close to one another, Sexton et al. (2013) recommend that conservation managers include this species in monitoring programs to limit future risks to existing populations, such as species invasions, land clearing, and livestock introductions.

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDB recommend adding *Erythranthe filicifolia* to California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2 of the CNPS Inventory. If knowledge on the distribution, threats, and rarity status of *E. filicifolia* changes in the future, we will re-evaluate its status at that time.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add *Erythranthe filicifolia* to CRPR 1B.2  
CNDDB: Add *Erythranthe filicifolia* to G2 / S2

**Draft CNPS Inventory Record**

*Erythranthe filicifolia* (Sexton, K.G. Ferris & Schoenig) G.L. Nesom  
fern-leaved monkeyflower  
Phrymaceae  
CRPR 1B.2  
Plumas, Butte  
American House (574A) 3912161, Cascade (574B) 9312162, Brush Creek (575A) 3912163, Storrie (591A) 3912183, Pulga (591C) 3912174, Soapstone Hill (591D) 3912173  
Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest / usually slow-draining, ephemeral seeps among exfoliating granitic slabs; elevation 415-1,710 meters.  
Annual herb. Blooms April to June.  
Similar to, and originally identified as, *E. laciniatus*, which is primarily found in the central and southern Sierra Nevada and not known to occur in BUT or PLU cos. See *Madroño* 60(3):236-242 (2013) for original description, and *Phytoneuron* 2013-80:1-3 for revised nomenclature.

**Literature Cited**

