

Rare Plant Status Review: *Eucephalus vialis*

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September 7, 2004

Background

Eucephalus vialis (*Aster vialis*) is a rayless perennial herb that typically grows in mixed coniferous forest. This species is considered endangered and threatened throughout its range (List 1) by the Oregon Natural Heritage Program and state-listed in Oregon as a Threatened species. *Eucephalus vialis* was once thought to be extinct but was rediscovered in 1980. John McRae of Six Rivers NF notified us of a range extension for this species and sent us information on a California occurrence discovered on the Siskiyou NF in Del Norte County. In 1999, a total of 2,000 plants were documented in this occurrence. Ken Chambers of Oregon State University Herbarium examined vouchers from this occurrence and confirmed the identification. We are aware of only one additional occurrence from Humboldt County. The only source of information for this occurrence consists of a specimen at the UC Herbarium, which was collected in 1919 by Joseph Tracy. This specimen appears to have been annotated numerous times, but John Strother at UC Berkeley examined it and stated the following: "The UC205151 specimen has leaf blades mostly narrower than in specimens from Oregon in UC labeled *Aster vialis*; in other traits (arrangements of heads, involucre, etc.), it appears to be a good match with the Oregon specimens and appears to be conspecific with them. I am unaware of other California collections of *Aster vialis*." The label information for this specimen can be viewed using this link: http://www.mip.berkeley.edu:8080/servlet/SmaschAccessionDetail?accession_id=UC205151 Numerous sources vary on whether this taxon is considered a member of *Aster* or *Eucephalus*. We have used the name *Eucephalus vialis*, which is the earliest name and was accepted in Nesom's Review of *Aster* taxonomy [*Phytologia* 77(3):256 (1994)]. If you have taxonomic literature that indicates we should use *Aster* for this species, please share it with us.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B / RED 3-3-2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G3 / S1.1

Please review the draft CNPS *Inventory* record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDDB, and provide any edits or additional information.

Draft CNPS *Inventory* record:

***Eucephalus vialis* Bradshaw**

"wayside aster"

Asteraceae

List 1B / RED 3-3-2

Del Norte, Humboldt, Oregon

Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest / gravelly; elevation 910-1545 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms August-September.

Known in CA from only two occurrences. Potentially threatened by logging. State-listed as Threatened in Oregon. Not in *The Jepson Manual*. See *Torrey* 20:122 (1921) for original description, *Rhodora* 30:288 (1928) for alternate nomenclature, and *Phytologia* 77(3):256 (1994) for taxonomic treatment.

Sent to NW