

Rare Plant Status Review: *Eurybia merita*

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Background

Eurybia merita is a perennial member of the Asteraceae. *Eurybia merita* is currently only known from two old collections in Siskiyou County. This species was discovered in California upon review of old herbarium specimens of *Eurybia radulina* and two specimens were determined to actually belong to *Eurybia merita*. *Eurybia merita* can be distinguished from the closely associated *Eurybia radulina* mainly by its purple-margined phyllaries and entire to subserrate leaves. *Eurybia merita* is not included in the Jepson Manual (1993); however, it is planned to be included in the new edition. The original description for this species in California is SIDA 21(1): 459-461 in 2004. These two specimens were collected in 1936 and 1882 and subsequent confirmation of their continued existence in Siskiyou County is needed. *Eurybia merita* is considered critically imperiled (S1) in Washington and Utah, vulnerable (S3) in Wyoming and is considered a secure population (S5) in British Columbia. However, the species has not been ranked in Oregon, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, and Alberta. The habitat of the species in California is montane forests between 1300 and 2000 meters in elevation. More populations of *Eurybia merita* may be discovered upon further review of *Eurybia radulina* specimens from California herbaria. This species is currently known in California from only two historical occurrences and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.3

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G5 / S1.3

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/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Eurybia merita (A. Nelson) G.L. Nesom

Asteraceae

“arctic aster”

List 2.3

Siskiyou County; Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and elsewhere

699C [Mount Eddy/4112234]

Upper montane coniferous forest; elevation 1300-2000 meters.

Perennial herb.

Known in California from only two historical occurrences in Siskiyou County. See *Synoptical Flora of North America* 1: 176 (1884) for original description (as *Aster sibiricus*) and SIDA 21(1): 459-461 (2004) for information on the first record in California.