

**Added to CNPS Inventory on April 8, 2011**

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Gilia mexicana***

**Proposed New Add to Rank 2.3, G4 / S1**

Aaron Sims (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)

March 2, 2011

**Background**

*Gilia mexicana* is an annual herb in the Polemoniaceae previously known only from the mountains of northern Baja California and from Arizona to Texas. It was recently discovered on Whale Peak in San Diego County, California, by Jon Rebman et al. in May of 2009, and will not be included in *The Jepson Manual, Second Edition*. *Gilia mexicana* is arachnoid-pubescent throughout its leaves and at the base of its stems. It has faintly white or bluish corollas and oblong to ovoid capsules that measure 4.5 to 5.5 mm in length. *Gilia mexicana* was discovered flowering in May in California, while out of state references refer to a flowering period from March to April (Shreve and Wiggins 1964, Wiggins 1980).

In the *Flora of Baja California*, Wiggins (1980) notes that *G. mexicana* occurs on alluvial soil in washes, and on bajadas, hillsides, arroyos, and plains. It is known in California from pinyon and juniper woodland at an approximate elevation of 1475 meters.

*Gilia mexicana* is known only from one occurrence in California from "Anza Borrego Desert State Park: vicinity of Whale Peak; south of Pinyon Mountain Valley Road and northwest of the highest point of Whale Peak" (CCH 2011, SD205058). Future surveys should be conducted for *G. mexicana* on other high desert mountains throughout San Diego County.

*Gilia mexicana* is ranked as a G4 taxon by NatureServe and is currently ranked as Critically Imperiled (S1) in the state of Texas. It is unranked (SNR) by NatureServe in Arizona and New Mexico.

Threats to *G. mexicana* are unknown, however with only one known occurrence in California it should be considered for conservation concern.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add to CNPS 2.3

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB G4 / S1

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.

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**Draft CNPS Inventory Record**

*Gilia mexicana* A. & V. Grant

El Paso gilia

Polemoniaceae

Rank 2.3

San Diego

Arizona, New Mexico, Texas; Baja CA

Whale Peak (032D) 3311613

Pinyon and juniper woodland ; elevation 1475 meters.

Annual herb. Blooms May.

Discovered in CA in 2009; known in CA from only one occurrence on Whale Peak in Anza-Borrego Desert SP. Not in *The Jepson Manual* (1993). See *Aliso* 3:255 (1956) for original description.