

Rare Plant Status Review:

Name Change: *Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *leucocephala* to *Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *congesta*

List Change: List 3 to List 1B

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Hemizonia congesta ssp. *leucocephala* is currently included on List 3 of the CNPS Inventory. According to Bruce Baldwin (pers. comm. 2008), "what is called (*H. congesta*) ssp. *leucocephala* in TJM1 (*The Jepson Manual* (1993)) is the real (*H. congesta*) ssp. *congesta*, so ssp. *leucocephala* should be treated as synonymous and identical in circumscription with ssp. *congesta*." This change is based on the revised, proper identification of the type specimen of *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta*. Bruce Baldwin states that, "what is called ssp. *congesta* in TJM1 (the yellow-rayed ssp.) should be ssp. *lutescens* and what is called ssp. *leucocephala* should be called ssp. *congesta*, without any changes in the circumscription of either ssp." As a result, *H. congesta* ssp. *leucocephala* is treated as a synonym of *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* in the *Flora of North America* (Vol. 21), and will be treated as such in *The Jepson Manual* (2nd edition).

Based on this current taxonomic treatment, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that the name of *H. congesta* ssp. *leucocephala* be changed to *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* in the CNPS Inventory.

Due to this clarification in taxonomy and a better understanding of the distribution of *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* (formerly *H. congesta* ssp. *leucocephala*), we think it is also appropriate, at this time, to assess the proper list placement of this taxon.

H. congesta ssp. *congesta* is an annual herb in the Asteraceae. This taxon is distinguished from other subspecies of *H. congesta* based on inflorescence architecture, leaf characteristics, the white color of its ray flowers, and other characteristics. Specimens of *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* sampled by Bruce Baldwin (pers. comm. 2008), "form a monophyletic group based on DNA sequence Data." Examination of herbarium label data on the Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH), however, indicates that hybrids between *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* and *H. congesta* ssp. *lutescens* do occur. *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* flowers from April to November.

H. congesta ssp. *congesta* is known from grassland, meadow, and marsh edge habitats from 20 to 560 meters in elevation.

The CNPS Inventory Notes section regarding this taxon currently states that, "precise location, rarity, and endangerment information needed." *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* is known from approximately 40 occurrences in Mendocino, Marin, Sent to CW, J. Strother on 8/21/08

Name changed to *Hemizonia congesta* subsp. *congesta* and rank changed to List 1B.2 on
2008-09-30

San Francisco, San Mateo, and Sonoma Counties (see spreadsheet of specific locations for more information). Several specimens (from El Dorado, Mendocino, Solano, and Yolo counties) identified in the CCH as *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* are likely mis-identified (B. Baldwin, pers. comm. 2008). Additionally, examination of specimens of *H. congesta* not determined to subspecies may result in the identification of additional occurrences of *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta*. The majority (approximately 25) of the occurrences of this taxon are known only from historical herbarium collections and have not been documented now between 41 and 122 years. Considering the land use practices in the known range of *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* it is safe to assume that several of these occurrences (e.g. the historical occurrences from “southern part San Francisco” and “Santa Rosa”, and probably others) are extirpated. Since most occurrences are from historical collections field work is needed to verify their continued existence, and to accurately map the extent of *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* at these locations.

The land ownership of most of the known occurrences of *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* is unknown. Threats to this taxon include development and conversion to agriculture. *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* is possibly threatened by grazing. Suitable habitat within and beyond the known range of this taxon should be searched for additional occurrences.

Based on our current understanding of the taxonomy, distribution, and rarity of *H. congesta* ssp. *congesta* (formerly *H. congesta* ssp. *leucocephala*), CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that it be re-ranked from List 3 to List 1B.1.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Change name of *Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *leucocephala* to *Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *congesta*

Re-rank from CNPS List 3 to List 1B.1

CNDDDB: Change name of *Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *leucocephala* to *Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *congesta*

Keep on CNDDDB G5T2T3, S2S3

Revised CNPS *Inventory* record:

Hemizonia congesta de Candolle ssp. *congesta*

pale yellow hayfield tarplant

Asteraceae

List 1B.1

Marin, Mendocino, San Francisco, San Mateo, Sonoma

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San Geronimo (484C) 3812216, Two Rock (502D) 3812237, Valley Ford (502C) 3812238, Novato (484D) 3812215, Tomales (485B) 3812228, Petaluma (484B) 3812226, San Rafael (467A) 3712285, Sears Point (483B) 3812224, Noyo Hill (568B) 5912346, Sebastopol (502A) 3812247, San Francisco South (448B) 3712264, Santa Rosa (501B) 3812246, Duncans Mills (503A) 3812341, Cotati (501C) 3812236, Sonoma (500C) 3812234, Jimtown (518A) 3812267, Arched Rock (503B) 3812342, Point Reyes NE (485A) 3812227, Inverness (485D) 3812217, Bolinas (467B) 3712286, Healdsburg (518D) 3812257, Warm Springs Dam (519A) 3812361

Valley and foothill grassland (VFGrS); elevation 20-560 meters.

Herb (annual), blooms April-November.

Threatened by agriculture and development. Possibly threatened by grazing.

See *H. congesta* ssp. *leucocephala* in *The Jepson Manual* (1993).