Rare Plant Status Review:

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

List Change: List 3 to List 1B

Nicholas Jensen (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDB)
August 20, 2008

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 CNDDB 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
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 CNDDB 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

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

Keep on CNDDB 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

Sent to CW, J. Strother on 8/21/08
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


Sent to CW, J. Strother on 8/21/08