

Rare Plant Status Review: *Iris longipetala*
Kristi Lazar (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB),
September 14, 2006

Background

Iris longipetala is a rhizomatous, perennial member of the Iridaceae. This species is endemic to central coastal areas in California. It is currently known in California from approximately 44 occurrences in Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. *I. longipetala* is known to hybridize with *Iris missouriensis*, a more widespread and higher elevation iris species. *I. longipetala* can be distinguished from *I. missouriensis* by having mature leaves as long or longer than the stem, the lowest 2 bracts alternate and not scarious, and by having 3-6 flowers per inflorescence.

I. longipetala is most commonly present in moist, heavy soils along the coast and often forms dense colonies. The habitat of the species is in coastal prairies, mixed evergreen forests, and moist meadows below 600 meters in elevation. Development is a threat for many populations of this species. *I. longipetala* is known in California from approximately 44 occurrences and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 4.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G3 / S3.2

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

***Iris longipetala* Herb.**

Iridaceae

"coast iris"

List 4.2

Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma

296B [Cape San Martin/3512184], 366C [Monterey/3612158], 384B [Mariposa Peak/3612182], 386C [Prunedale/3612176], 409D [Ano Nuevo/3712213], 426C [Lick Observatory/3712136], 428D [Cupertino/3712231], 429C [San Gregorio/3712234], 448B [San Francisco South/3712264], 448C [Montara Mtn./3712254], 465B [Briones Valley/3712282], 465D? [Las Trampas Ridge/3712271], 466A [Richmond/3712283], 466C [San Francisco North/3712274], 482B [Cordelia/3812222], 485B [Tomales/3812245], 501A [Kenwood/3812245], 501D [Glen Ellen/3812235], 502B [Camp Meeker/3812248], 520D [Plantation/3812353], 535A [Hopland/3812381], 585D [Inglennook/3912357], 619A [Cooskie Creek/4012423]

Coastal prairie, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps / mesic; elevation 0-600 meters.

Perennial herb (rhizomatous), blooms March-May.

Element Code: ?
Added to CNPS Inventory 10/12/06

Many collections old; need field surveys. May hybridize with *Iris missouriensis*. Threatened by development. See *Bot. Beechey Voy.* 395 (1840) for original description.

Sent to NW, CW- 9/14/06