

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Linum puberulum***  
Kristi Lazar (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)  
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**Background**

*Linum puberulum* is a short-lived perennial herb in the Linaceae. This species is known in California from approximately 6 occurrences in San Bernardino County. This species is also known outside of California in Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska (S2), Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming (S2). In California, this species occurs in pinyon and juniper woodlands, Great Basin scrub, Joshua tree "woodland" and Mojavean desert scrub from 1000 meters to 2500 meters in elevation. The only other *Linum* in California that is sympatric with *L. puberulum* is *Linum lewisii*. These two species can be most readily distinguished from each other by flower color (yellow/orange versus blue) and fused versus free styles.

The occurrences in California of *L. puberulum* consist of fairly sparse populations with just a few plants at each location but with these populations widely scattered within an occurrence (pers. com. J. Andre). This species was proposed for listing by Jim Andre who feels that the present known distribution of this species is representative and while more occurrences may be recorded in the general areas where the species is already known, it is not likely that new occurrences will be found far from the known existing localities. There are currently no major threats to this species.

*L. puberulum* is currently known in California from 6 occurrences in the eastern Mojave Desert area 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 / S1S2.3

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.

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**Draft CNPS Inventory Record**

***Linum puberulum* (Engelm.) A.A. Heller**

Linaceae

"plains flax"

List 2.3

San Bernardino; Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Wyoming, and elsewhere  
200A [Pinto Valley/3511523], 224C [Castle Peaks/3511532], 224D [Hart Peak/3511531], 225D  
[Ivanpah/3511533], 226A [Mescal Range/3511545], 249D [Clark Mtn./3511555]

Pinyon and juniper woodland, Great Basin scrub, Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub;  
elevation 1000-2500 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms May-July.

Known in California only from San Bernardino County. See *Pl. Wright*. 1: 25 (1852) for original description and *Pl. World* 1: 22 (1897) for revised nomenclature.