

Rare Plant Status Review: *Mentzelia polita*
Kristi Lazar (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)
November 14, 2006

Background

Mentzelia polita is a perennial herb in the Loasaceae. This species is known in California from approximately 2 occurrences in the Clark Mountain area of San Bernardino County. *M. polita* is also known from the south end of the Spring Mountains in Clark County, Nevada. This species is included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993). *M. polita* tends to occur in limestone and gypsum soils in the Mojave Desert between 1200 m and 1500 m in elevation. This species is potentially threatened by transmission line and other linear corridor development in areas outside of the Mojave National Preserve.

M. polita is currently known in California from 2 occurrences, both in the Clark Mountain area and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G2 / S1.2

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

Mentzelia polita A. Nelson

Loasaceae

“polished blazing star”

List 1B.2

San Bernardino; Nevada

259D [3511555/Clark Mtns.]

Mojavean desert scrub / carbonate; elevation 1200-1500 meters.

Perennial herb, blooms April-May.

Known in California only from the Clark Mountains area of San Bernardino County. Potentially threatened by transmission line development. See *Botanical Gazette* 47: 427 (1909) for original description.