

Rare Plant Status Review: *Mentzelia pterosperma*
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Background

Mentzelia pterosperma is an annual to perennial herb in the Loasaceae. This species is known in California from 1 occurrence in the Valley Wells area of San Bernardino County. *M. pterosperma* is also known from northwestern Arizona, southern Nevada, Colorado (S3?), and Utah (S2S3). This species is included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993). The California occurrence of *M. pterosperma* occurs in creosote bush scrub on gypseous clay soil along an alluvial wash at about 1140 m in elevation. This species is potentially threatened by altered hydrology and nearby freeway developments and maintenance.

M. pterosperma is currently known in California from 1 occurrence and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and the CNDDDB.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.2

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G4 / 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 pterosperma Eastw.

Loasaceae

“wing-seed blazing star”

List 2.2

San Bernardino; Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and elsewhere

226B [3511546/Valley Wells]

Mojavean desert scrub / clay, gypseous; elevation 1140 meters.

Annual/perennial herb, blooms April-June.

Known in California only from the Valley Wells area of San Bernardino County. Potentially threatened by road construction, road maintenance, and hydrological alterations. See *Proceedings of the California Academy II*, 6: 290 (1896) for original description.