Rare Plant Status Review: *Monolopia gracilens*
Proposed New Add to List 1B.2

Nicholas Jensen (CNPS), Belinda Lo (CNPS), and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDB)
February 1, 2010

Background

Monolopia gracilens is a California endemic, herbaceous annual in the Asteraceae. It is included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993) and the *Flora of North America* (Vol. 2). It is distinguished from other species of *Monolopia* based on flower and fruit characteristics. *M. gracilens* flowers between March and July.

M. gracilens generally grows in grassy, sandy to rocky openings associated with chaparral, woodland, mixed evergreen forest, and redwood forest habitats from approximately 100 to 1200 meters in elevation. *M. gracilens* is often associated with serpentine and recently burned sites, but the extent of these relationships are unknown. Safford et al. (2005) list *M. gracilens* as a "weak indicator" of serpentine affinity (see Madrono 52(4):222-257).

M. gracilens is known from approximately 61occurrences in 7 counties in the San Francisco Bay Area and the South Coast Ranges. It is found as far north as Contra Costa County and as far south as San Luis Obispo County.

According to Dean W. Taylor (pers. comm. 2009), "most of the known range being private land is a threat factor…" There are numerous reports that indicate *M. gracilens* is found along or near roads. These occurrences could be threatened by road widening and maintenance. The population size of occurrences is unknown but *M. gracilens* appears to be "colonial" (Bruce Baldwin and D.W. Taylor, pers. comm. 2009).

M. gracilens is known from a relatively small geographic area (27-32 quads in 7 counties), and appears to have "a very defined microsite requirement" (D. W. Taylor, pers. comm. 2009). Of the 59 known occurrences, only 14 have been documented in the past 20 years (occurrences that have not been "seen" in the past 20 years are considered historic by the CNDDB), and 39 are only represented by historical herbarium specimens that were collected more than 50 years ago.

List 1B typically contains plants known from 50 or fewer viable occurrences that are ranked as either good or excellent by CNDDB. List 4 typically includes plants with greater than 50 viable occurrences.

Based on the available information CNPS and CNDDB recommend that *M. gracilens* be added to List 1B.2.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.2

CNDDB: Add to CNDDB as G3 / S3

Please review the draft CNPS Inventory record below, respond Yes or No on the proposal to add this species to the Inventory and CNDDB, and provide any edits/comments. If responding No, please provide supporting information.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Monolopia gracilens A. Gray
woodland woollythreads
Asteraceae
List 1B.2
~~Ballinger Canyon 191B (34119H4)~~, Cambria 271D (35121E1), Castle Rock Ridge 408A (37122B1), Clayton 464B (37121H8), Cupertino 428D (37122C1), Diablo 464C (37121G8), Felton 408D (37122A1), Gilroy 406D (37121A5), Isabel Valley? 426D (37121C5), Laurel 407C (37121A8), Lick Observatory? 426C (37121C6), Loma Prieta 407D (37121A7), Los Gatos 407B (37121B8), Mindego Hill 428C (37122C2), Mississippi Creek 405B (37121B4), Montara Mountain 448C (37122E4), Monterey? 366C (36121E8), Morgan Hill 406B (37121B6), Mt. Madonna 406C (37121A6), Mt. Sizer 406A (37121B5), Oakland East 465C (37122G2), ~~Painted Rock 218A (35119B7)~~, Palo Alto 428B (37122D2), Pebblestone Shut-In? 271A (35121F1), Piedras Blancas 272A (35121F3), Port San Luis 222A (35120B7), San Mateo 448D (37122E3), Santa Teresa Hills 407A (37121B7), Seaside? 366D (36121E7), Watsonville East 386B (36121H6), Watsonville West 387A (36121H7), Woodside 429A (37122D3)
Chaparral, valley and foothill grasslands (serpentine), cismontane woodland, broadleafed upland forests, north coast coniferous forest / openings,. 100-1200 meters
Herbaceous annual. Blooms March - July.
Possibly threatened by development, road maintenance, and road widening.