

Rare Plant Status Review:
Navarretia nigelliformis* ssp. *nigelliformis
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Background

Navarretia nigelliformis ssp. *nigelliformis* is an annual herb in the Polemoniaceae. This species occurs in vernal pools on the valley floor and in the low foothills between 100 and 1,000 meters in elevation. *N. nigelliformis* ssp. *nigelliformis* is endemic to California and is known from approximately 22 occurrences in 11 counties (about 13 of these occurrences collected in the last 20 years). There is only one documented occurrence each from Placer, Sutter, Merced, Tulare, Fresno, and Monterey Counties. The single occurrence from Tulare County was collected in 1891 and is likely extirpated; while the occurrences from Fresno and Merced Counties were collected more than 50 years ago and may also be extirpated. In addition, the rapid destruction of vernal pools which has occurred over the last 100 years suggests that other historical occurrences may be extirpated as well. The majority of documented occurrences are from Butte County (5 herbarium specimens) and the *Manual of the Vascular Plants of Butte County, California* (Oswald 1994) mentions that this species is uncommon but can sometimes be locally abundant.

The fact that this species is known from 11 counties suggests that it may be more common than the current number of herbarium specimens would suggest; however, Rob Preston mentions that it is likely not widespread throughout its range as it appears to be mostly restricted to clay soils. In addition, confirmation of the identity of the specimens collected from the southern California coast ranges (Monterey County) would be very valuable to further understand this species range.

N. nigelliformis ssp. *nigelliformis* is known from less than 25 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 G4T3/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 on either of the proposed changes.

Draft CNPS Inventory Record

Navarretia nigelliformis* Greene ssp. *nigelliformis

Polemoniaceae

“adobe navarretia”

List 4.2

Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Merced, Monterey, Placer, Sutter, Tulare

262D [Pine Mtn./3511857], 295B? [Jolon/3512182], 309C [Success Dam/3611818], 310D [Porterville/3611911], 356B [Wahtoke/3611964], 377C [Piedra/3611974], 377D [Pine Flat Dam/3611973], 378A [Academy/3611985], 401A [Plainsburg/3712023], 445B [Altamont/3712166], 463C [Byron Hot Springs/3712176], 464A [Antioch South/3712187], 528D [Roseville/3812173], 547C [Wilbur Springs/3912214], 554B [Sutter/3912126], 560B [Biggs/3912146], 563D [Sites/3912233], 576A [Cherokee/3912165], 576B [Hamlin Canyon/3912166], 576C [Shippee/3912156], 577A [Chico/3912167], 593B? [Richardson Springs NW/3912188], 593C? [Nord/3912178]

Valley and foothill grasslands, vernal pools (sometimes) / clay; 100-1000 meters. Annual herb, blooms April-June.

See *Leaflets West. Bot.* 2: 136 (1938) for original subspecies description.