

Rare Plant Status Review: *Navarretia ojaiensis*
Nicholas Jensen (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)
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Background

Navarretia ojaiensis is an annual, herbaceous species in the Polemoniaceae. *N. ojaiensis* was recently described by Leigh A. Johnson in *Novon* 17(4): 454-461(2007). Although not included in the current *Jepson Manual* (1993), the species will be included in the upcoming edition. *N. ojaiensis* is distinguished from similar *Navarretia* species based on its spreading growth habit and floral characteristics. *N. ojaiensis* blooms from May through July.

N. ojaiensis is currently known from approximately 10 occurrences with only 2 having been documented within the last 37 years. All of the documented occurrences (10) are located in Ventura County in the Santa Clara River Valley: Ojai Valley, Santa Clarita Valley, and Santa Susana Mountains. There are three undocumented/unconfirmed reports from the Santa Monica Mountains of Los Angeles County [B. Thoele, L. Thoele s.n. (RSA4559), D.L. Magney 149-05 (UCSB), M.A. Elvin reports seeing a *N. ojaiensis* specimen @ UC before publication of the protolog]. At this time, no information is available about the demographics or population trends of any of the *N. ojaiensis* occurrences.

Johnson (2007) reports the habitat of *N. ojaiensis* as, "dry, clay soils of native perennial grasslands in openings of chaparral." At least one occurrence of the species is found in grassy openings within dense, coastal sage scrub habitat dominated by *Salvia leucophylla*. *N. ojaiensis* occurs from 275 to 620 meters in elevation.

All but one of the occurrences of *N. ojaiensis* are located on private land. At least one occurrence, the type locality of the species, has likely been extirpated by development activities. Six other occurrences are historical and have not been observed from between 37 and 75 years. Johnson (2007) states that, "at least some historically known populations from Ojai Valley have been consumed by development, and all but one of the recently identified populations from the Santa Clara Valley and adjacent Santa Susana Mountains are likewise threatened by development." One of these recently identified populations has been set aside in an area to be "conserved." The occurrence located near Red Mountain, below the Lake Casitas dam is located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Several of the occurrences of *N. ojaiensis* are threatened by grazing and possibly by competition from non-native plants, especially exotic grasses. Attempts should be made to locate historical locations of *N. ojaiensis*, and suitable habitat in the known range of this species should be searched for new occurrences.

Based on the information currently available, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *Navarretia ojaiensis* be added to CNPS List 1B with a .1 threat ranking.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B.1

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G1 / S1.1

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

Navarretia ojaiensis Elvin, J.M. Porter & L.M. Johnson

Polemoniaceae

List 1B.1

Ventura, Los Angeles?

141A [3411943/Matilija], 136B [3411846/Val Verde], 140B [3411942/Ojai], 141D

[3411933/Ventura], 113C? [3411818/Triunfo Pass], 113D? [3411817/Point Dume], 112C?

[3411816/Malibu Beach]

Chaparral (openings), coastal scrub (openings), valley and foothill grasslands; elevation 275-620 meters.

Annual herb, blooms May-July

Known from approximately 10 occurrences. Severely threatened by development and grazing.

Possibly threatened by non-native plants. Not in *The Jepson Manual* (1993). See *Novon* 17(4): 454-461 (2007) for original description.