

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Polemonium carneum*
New Add to List 2.2**

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Changes made since the original status review appear in blue.

Background

Polemonium carneum is an herbaceous perennial in the Polemoniaceae. *P. carneum* has long been recognized as native to California, is included in Munz's, *A California Flora* (1959), *The Jepson Manual* (1993), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual* (2nd edition). *P. carneum* is distinguished from other species of *Polemonium* based on its growth habit, inflorescence architecture (*P. carneum* typically has 1-3 flowers per inflorescence), and the characteristics of its leaves, flowers, and fruit. *P. carneum* flowers from April to September.

P. carneum occurs in coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and lower montane coniferous forest habitats from 0 to 1830 meters in elevation.

In California, *P. carneum* is known from approximately 23 occurrences in Alameda, Del Norte, Humboldt, Marin, San Mateo, Siskiyou, and Sonoma counties. *P. carneum* is also known from Oregon and Washington. NatureServe ranks *P. carneum* as a G4 (apparently secure) taxon. It is apparently more common in the state of Oregon (the Oregon Vascular Plant Database contains records of 72 herbarium collections); Oregon does not currently have a rank for this species. In Washington, *P. carneum* is ranked as a S1S2 (critically imperiled) taxon.

Most of the documented (21 out of 23) occurrences of *P. carneum* in California are only known from historical herbarium specimens that are now between 77 and 137 years old. The two more recent California collections of *P. carneum* (Diane Reed s.n. in 1982, and Robin Fallscheer s.n. in 2008) are from Siskiyou County. Fieldwork is needed to determine if occurrences of this taxon in other counties (especially those in the Bay Area, the southern extent of the range for this species) are still extant. Since herbarium specimens are the main source of location information for most of the known occurrences, some sites are vague. More detailed location information is needed to correctly map *P. carneum*. Suitable habitat within and beyond the known range of *P. carneum* should be searched for additional occurrences.

The ownership, current status, and threats to most of the occurrences of *P. carneum* are unknown. The 1982 collection by Diane Reed occurs on land managed by the Klamath National Forest. The 2008 collection by Robin Fallscheer occurs on private land and is threatened by a proposed logging project (R. Fallscheer pers. comm. 2008).

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *Polemonium carneum* be added to List 2.2.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2.2
CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G4 / S1

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

Polemonium carneum Gray

~~“great Polemonium” or “royal sky pilot”~~ royal Jacob's-ladder

Polemoniaceae

List 2.2

Alameda, Del Norte, Humboldt, Marin, San Mateo, Siskiyou, Sonoma; Oregon, Washington

Sister Rocks (723B) 4112462, Smith River (740B) 4112482, Ferndale (655D) 4012453, Capetown (637A) 4012443, Trinidad (689C) 4112412, Rodgers Peak (689A) 4112421, Point Bonita (467D) 3712275, San Francisco North (466C) 3772274, Half Moon Bay (429B) 3712244, Indian Creek Baldy (718A) 4112267, Boulder Peak (719D) 4112351, Montara Mountain (448C) 3712254, Hornbrook (734A) 4112285, San Mateo (448D) 3712253, Bodega Head (503D) 3812331
Coastal prairie (CoPrr), coastal scrub (CoScr), lower montane coniferous forest (LCFRS). Elevation 0-1830 meters.

Perennial herb. Blooms April-September.

Threatened by logging. See Synoptical Flora of North America 2(1): 151. 1878 for original description.