

Rare Plant Status Review: *Pseudostellaria sierrae*

Misa Ward (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDDB)

June 28, 2004

Background

Rabeler and Hartman have published a new species, *Pseudostellaria sierrae*, in *Novon* 12:82-86 (2002). Based on a review of the existing data and correspondence with the authors, this species appears to be rare and requires review for inclusion in both the CNPS Inventory and CNDDDB. Presently, the species is known from ca. 10 occurrences, but it is likely to be more common based on its distribution and habitat. Rabeler and Hartman note, "Pseudostellaria sierrae may be more common than suggested by the few collections cited. In describing his efforts to locate *P. sierrae*, Lowell Ahart... stated 'Both sides of the road under Red Firs are massive stands of Pseudostellaria.' Given the similarity of the range of these taxa, we suspect additional fieldwork may show *P. sierrae* occupying a somewhat larger area."

The *Novon* abstract is included below:

Pseudostellaria sierrae is described as new from northern California. Glabrous stems and leaves, a V-shaped apical notch in each ligulate petal, five yellow anthers, and seeds with minute projections on each tubercle are features useful in distinguishing *P. sierrae* from *P. jamesiana* (Torrey) W. A. Weber & R. L. Hartman, the congener widely distributed in the western United States. *Pseudostellaria sierrae* is found in mixed oak or conifer forests.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G2G3/S2S3.2

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:

Pseudostellaria sierrae Rabeler & R.L. Hartman

"Sierra starwort"

Caryophyllaceae

List 1B / RED 2-2-3

El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Mariposa, Plumas, Tuolumne

455C, 456D, 524C, 540A, 554C, 556B, 556C, 588A, 588B, 589B, 605C

Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest; elevation 1250 - 1970 meters.

Perennial herb (rhizomatous), blooms May-August.

Known only from approximately 10 occurrences. Potentially threatened by logging. Not in *The Jepson Manual*. See *Novon* 12:82-86 (2002) for original description.

Sent to SN, Hartman, Rabeler