Rare Plant Status Review: *Pseudostellaria sierrae*
Misa Ward (CNPS) and Roxanne Bittman (CNDDB)
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**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 CNDDB. 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 located *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

**CNDDB:** Add to CNDDB 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 CNDDB, 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


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

Perennial herb (rhizomatous), blooms May-August.


Sent to SN, Hartman, Rabeler