

Rare Plant Status Review:
Ribes divaricatum* var. *parishii

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Ribes divaricatum var. *parishii* is a deciduous shrub in the Grossulariaceae that is currently on CNPS' List 1B. *R. divarticulatum* var. *parishii* can be distinguished from other *Ribes* by the presence of nodal spines (0-3) and by various flower characteristics (such as 5 sepals, exserted anthers, hairy style bases, styles 8-11 mm in length, purplish/green calyces and pink/red petals). This California endemic plant has been known historically from scattered localities (less than 5 documented) in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. Occurrences from San Bernardino County are thought to be completely eradicated due to stream channelization. The most recent sightings of this taxon were made in Los Angeles by Mickey Long in 1979 and another found nearby in 1980. Both occurrences were observed in the vicinity of Whittier Narrows Nature Center. However, searches for this species since the early 1980's have yielded no *R. divaricatum* var. *parishii*; despite numerous attempts. Mickey Long is the Natural Areas administrator for this region and has visited the sites fairly often over the years. In addition, Scott Eliason visited the known site with Mickey Long in the early to mid-1990's in a year that was particularly good for other *Ribes* species. However, *R. divaricatum* var. *parishii* was once again not observed. It is believed that a combination of long, dry years, altered stream flows, human-caused fires, and invasive plant species have led to the extinction of *R. divaricatum* var. *parishii*.

People are encouraged to continue searching for this species, especially in the Whittier Narrows area as there still appears to be some good habitat that has not been well-explored (pers. comm. S. Eliason). One of the two plants observed in the 1980's at the Whittier Narrows Nature Center occupied a more remote site and is harder to relocate. Botanists who have seen this plant observed that it grew mixed in with *Ribes aureum*. They also note that, when not in flower, it can be especially difficult to see.

Since all historical populations of *R. divaricatum* var. *parishii* are believed to be extirpated from both Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend moving this species from CNPS List 1B (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere) to CNPS List 1A (plants presumed extinct in California) with the hope that someone will continue to search in the Whittier Narrows area for this plant in the future. Given our current information, List 1A seems to be the most appropriate listing status for *R. divaricatum* var. *parishii* at this time.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Re-rank from CNPS List 1B.1 to CNPS List 1A.

CNDDDB: Re-rank from CNDDDB G4T1 S1.1 to G4TH SH.

Revised CNPS *Inventory* record:

Ribes divaricatum* Dougl. var. *parishii (Heller) Jeps.
"Parish's gooseberry"
Grossulariaceae

List 1A

Los Angeles*, San Bernardino*

089A* [Whittier/3311881], 106C* [Redlands/3411712], 107D* [San Bernardino South/3411713], 110B* [Pasadena/3411822], 110D* [El Monte/3411811]

Riparian woodland; elevation 65-100 meters.

Shrub (deciduous), blooms February-April.

Last seen in 1982 at Whittier Narrows Nature Center. Known from fewer than 5 historical occurrences. Likely extirpated due to a combination of dry years, altered stream flows, human-caused fires, and invasive species. See *Rhodora* 87: 259-260 (1985) for taxonomic treatment.