

**Added to California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1 to the CNPS Inventory on  
August 26, 2016**

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Rosa woodsii* var. *glabrata***  
**Proposed Addition to California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1, G5T1 / S1**  
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### **Background**

*Rosa woodsii* Lindl. var. *glabrata* (Parish) D. Cole is a perennial shrub in the Rosaceae known only from San Bernardino County, California. It is included in the *Jepson eFlora* (Ertter 2016) and *Flora of North America, Vol. 9* (Lewis et al. 2014); it is treated as a synonym of *R. woodsii* var. *ultramontana* in *The Jepson Manual* (Ertter 1993), and is not included in *The Jepson Manual, Second Edition* (Ertter 2012). *Rosa woodsii* is a widely distributed and variable species that has been divided into several subspecies. *Rosa woodsii* var. *glabrata* was originally described by Samuel Parish in *Erythea*, Vol. 6 as the basionym *Rosa californica* var. *glabrata* (Parish 1898) and was subsequently described by Cole (1956) placing it within the species *woodsii*. *Rosa woodsii* var. *mohavensis* is an illegitimate synonym for *R. woodsii* var. *glabrata* (Lewis et al. 2014). *Rosa woodsii* var. *glabrata* and *R. woodsii* var. *gratissima* are treated as variants of *R. woodsii* subsp. *gratissima*. While var. *gratissima* occurs in the central and southern Sierra Nevada, Tehachapi, Western Transverse Range, and mountainous areas of the Mojave Desert, as well as occurring in Nevada State, var. *glabrata* is unique to a small geographic area in the San Bernardino Mountains (Lewis and Ertter 2007). As its varietal epithet indicates, *R. woodsii* var. *glabrata* is distinguishable by having abaxially glabrous leaflets, glabrous rachis/petioles, and glabrous stipules (versus a finely velvety leaf axis in var. *gratissima*) (Lewis and Ertter 2007).

*Rosa woodsii* var. *glabrata* occurs in desert springs of Mojavean desert scrub on the north foot of San Bernardino Mountains at an approximate elevation of 910 to 1,435 meters (Google Inc. 2015), and blooms from May to August and based on a voucher collection (*Mason 3090*), it may bloom as early as April (Lewis and Ertter 2007).

There are three occurrences of *Rosa woodsii* var. *glabrata* found within close proximity to each other at Cushenbury Springs and Box S Springs, in the San Bernardino Mountains. All three occurrences are found on private property. All but one collection is from before 1975 with the earliest being 1892 and the most recent being 1978. One collection labeled as *R. woodsii* var. *glabrata* (*Mayer 212*), found outside of described range, was examined by Lawrence Janeway (pers. comm. 2016) who annotated it to *R. woodsii* subsp. *gratissima* var. *gratissima* (included as *R. woodsii* var. *gratissima* in the *Jepson eFlora*) due to the underside of the leaves being finely pubescent. Two other collections were discounted due to the collections being located outside of the described range of *R. woodsii* var. *glabrata*. Several unannotated collections of *Rosa woodsii* are found in San Bernardino County. Three of these collections are from Cushenbury Springs (*Cantelow s.n.*, CAS427201; *Chandler s.n.*, DS81547; *Parish 4941*, DS31218), while one other is located nearby at Furnace Spring (*Sanders and Bramlet 22205*, CAS998358, RSA653136, UCR110867). Both of these latter collections

are from potentially appropriate habitats according to Scott Eliason (pers. comm. 2016), and should be reviewed and verified as potential records of var. *glabrata*.

There are no documented threats to *R. woodsii* var. *glabrata*. However, since all of its collections come from wetlands on private property, possible threats include development, grazing, and changes in hydrology (D. Bell pers. comm. 2016).

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend adding *Rosa woodsii* var. *glabrata* to California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1 of the CNPS Inventory. Although no threats are currently documented, its distribution in desert springs, on private property, and the historical status of all of its known occurrences, indicate that a threat rank of .1 is warranted until further knowledge is obtained. If knowledge on the distribution, threats, and rarity status of *R. woodsii* var. *glabrata* changes in the future, we will re-evaluate its status at that time.

### **Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add *Rosa woodsii* var. *glabrata* to CRPR 1B.1

CNDDDB: Add *Rosa woodsii* var. *glabrata* to G5T1 / S1

### **Draft CNPS Inventory Record**

*Rosa woodsii* Lindl. var. *glabrata* (Parish) D. Cole

Cushenbury rose

Rosaceae

CRPR 1B.1

San Bernardino

Lucerne Valley (131B) 3411648, Fawnskin (131C) 3411638, Big Bear City (131D) 3411637

Mojavean desert scrub (springs); elevation 910 to 1,435 meters.

Perennial shrub. Blooms (April) May to August.

A glabrous variant of *R. woodsii* ssp. *gratissima*. See *American Midland Naturalist* 55(1):223 (1956) for original description and *Novon* 17(3):341-353 (2007) for taxonomic treatment.

### **Literature Cited**

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