

**Deleted from California Rare Plant Rank 2B.3 of the CNPS Inventory on  
July 6, 2016**

**Rare Plant Status Review: *Saxifraga rufidula***  
**Proposed Deletion from California Rare Plant Rank 2B.3, G5? / S1**  
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**Background**

*Saxifraga rufidula* (Small) Macoun is a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 2B.3 plant in the Saxifragaceae that was added to the CNPS Inventory, Fourth Edition (Smith and Berg 1988). The plant was thought to occur at a single site in California, at Abbotts Lake in the Marble Mountain Wilderness, Siskiyou County. *Saxifraga rufidula* was recognized for California in *The Jepson Manual* (Etvander 1993), and synonym *Micranthes rufidula* was recognized for California in the *Flora of North America* (Brouillet and Etvander 2009). However, *The Jepson Manual, Second Edition* (Park 2012) did not recognize *S. rufidula* as occurring in California, noting instead that the plants were actually mis-identified specimens of *Micranthes marshallii*. The UC duplicates of the two purported specimens of *S. rufidula* from California, *F.W. Oettinger 651* and *1037* (with additional duplicates at HSC and RSA) were examined by M. Park (pers. comm. 2015) and determined to be *M. marshallii* (Consortium of California Herbaria 2015). Park noted that “the distal portions of the filaments are strongly inflated, so they are not *M. rufidula*.” York (pers. comm. 2015) noted that the petals on these specimens lack spots, a feature found in *S. rufidula*, but not *M. marshallii*. However, the petal spots can fade in dried specimens (Bouillet and Etvander 2009). An additional specimen collected by D. Taylor in Mono County is listed in CalFlora (2015) as *S. rufidula*, but it was given that name due to a database error and should be treated as *Saxifraga rivularis* (D. Taylor pers. comm. 2015). Based on the review of the Oettinger and Taylor specimens, *S. rufidula* is no longer known to occur in California.

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend deleting *Saxifraga rufidula* from the CNPS Inventory. If more information on this plant becomes available in the future, we will re-evaluate its status at that time. *Micranthes marshallii* is being reviewed concurrently as a new addition to CRPR 4 of the CNPS Inventory, and we also welcome commentary on its conservation status at this time.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Delete *Saxifraga rufidula* from CRPR 2B.3  
CNDDDB: Delete *Saxifraga rufidula* from G5? / S1

**Current CNPS Inventory Record**

*Saxifraga rufidula* (Small) Macoun  
red-wool saxifrage  
Saxifragaceae  
CRPR 2B.3

Alaska, Oregon, Washington

Siskiyou

English Peak (702B) 4112342

Upper montane coniferous forest (mesic, rocky); elevation 1860 – 2000 meters

Perennial rhizomatous herb. Blooms March to July.

Known in CA from only one occurrence in the Marble Mtns. See North American Flora 22:140 (1905) for original description.

Available online at: <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/detail/1442.html>

### **Revised CNPS Inventory Record**

*Saxifraga rufidula* (Small) Macoun

Considered But Rejected: Previously CRPR 2B.3. Does not occur in California. Plants previously identified as *S. rufidula* are actually *Micranthes marshallii*.

### **Literature Cited**

Brouillet, L. and P.E. Elvander. 2009. *Micranthes*. Pp. 49-70 in Flora of North America Editorial Committee (eds.), Flora of North America North of Mexico, Vol. 8. New York and Oxford.

Calflora. 2015. Information on wild California plants for conservation, education, and appreciation. Website <http://www.calflora.org/> [accessed 17 December 2015].

Consortium of California Herbaria. 2015. Data provided by the participants of the Consortium of California Herbaria. Regents of the University of California, Berkeley. Accessed on 5 May 2015. Available online at: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/>

Elvander, P.E. 1993. *Saxifraga*. Pp. 1009-1010 in Hickman, J.C. (ed.), The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Park, M.S. 2012. *Saxifraga*. Pp. 1242-1244 in Baldwin, B.G., D.H. Goldman, D.J. Keil, R. Patterson, T.J. Rosatti, and D.H. Wilken (eds.), The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California (2nd ed.). University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles.

Smith, J.P., Jr., and K. Berg (eds.). 1988. California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California. Special Publication No. 1 (Fourth Edition). California Native Plant Society, Sacramento. 168 pp.