

Rare Plant Status Review: *Symphyotrichum defoliatum*

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Background

Symphyotrichum defoliatum (*Aster bernardinus* Hall) is a southern California endemic that is seldom reported in recent years (Sanders, pers. comm.). Its typical habitat consists of meadows, streams and springs. However, the literature indicates that this species can also grow in upland habitats including coastal sage scrub, southern oak woodland, and disturbed areas (Beauchamp 1986, Hickman 1993). Many of the Los Angeles and Orange County occurrences have been extirpated. Based on our review of the available data, there appear to be approximately 37 extant occurrences known at this time. While some of the occurrences in Riverside, San Diego and Orange Counties are on Forest Service lands, most of the San Bernardino County occurrences are on private lands and are threatened (Sanders, pers. comm.).

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 1B / RED 1-2-3

CNDDDB: Add to CNDDDB as G3 / S3.2

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.

Draft CNPS *Inventory* record:

Symphyotrichum defoliatum (Parish) Nesom

"San Bernardino aster" **Need new common name?**

Asteraceae

List 1B / RED 1-2-3

Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo

19B, 19C, 20A, 20B, 20D, 33B, 33D, 48C, 49D, 66B, 68C*, 69B, 70B, 71A, 72A*, 84A, 84D, 85A, 86C, 87B*, 89D*, 90A*, 105B, 108C*, 131D, 133C, 134C, 134D, 135D, 158D, 237A, 269D

Meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland (vernally mesic) / near ditches, streams and springs, disturbed areas; elevation 2-2040 meters.

Perennial herb (rhizomatous), blooms July-November.

Historical collections from San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties indicate the presence of possible hybrids; further study is needed. A synonym of *Aster bernardinus* in *The Jepson Manual*. See *Phytologia* 77(3):279 (1994) for revised nomenclature.

Sent to ES/D, SW, CW