



Tiburon Jewelflower

Streptanthus niger



CLASSIFICATION

Endangered—February 1995

DESCRIPTION

Tiburon jewelflower is an annual herb of the mustard family (Brassicaceae). It reaches 1 to 2 feet in height. The lower leaves are toothed and the upper leaves are either less toothed or not toothed at all. The sepals are a very dark purple; the petals have a purple claw and a white blade with a purple midvein. The pods are erect, almost straight and 1.5 to 2.75 inches long. The zig-zag inflorescence and the lack of hairs distinguish this plant from its near relative bristly jewelflower (*Streptanthus glandulosus*).

Seedlings appear in March and April. The plants flower from May to June. Seed capsules open in late June. The species is self-pollinated, with populations that fluctuate from 50 to 2,000 plants.

DISTRIBUTION

Tiburon jewelflower is found at elevations of approximately 350 feet on shallow, rocky, serpentine soils on southwest facing slopes on the Tiburon Peninsula of Marin County, California. Serpentine soils are formed from weathered volcanic (ultramafic) rocks such as serpentinite, dunite, and peridotite. These soils provide a harsh environment for plant growth; however, this species has adapted to this harsh environment and survives here while many other species cannot.

Two populations are known from the southern end of the peninsula where they occur within 2 miles of one another. One is at the tip of the peninsula and the other is along the Middle Ridge of the peninsula. The species probably never occurred outside of the Tiburon Peninsula, and no historic occurrences are known.

Tiburon jewelflower is an extremely narrowly-distributed species; its entire range amounts to less than one-third of a square mile.

THREATS

Urban development has destroyed over 40 percent of potential habitat. Threats to the species include urbanization, foot traffic, dog walking (and off-leash dogs), erosion, increased runoff, non-native invasive plants, and road construction.

Due to its restricted range and small population sizes, the Tiburon jewelflower is at risk of extinction. Climate change may also threaten the survival of the species.

CRITICAL HABITAT:

None

RECOVERY PLAN:

Final—September 1998