



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
SAN MATEO WOOLLY SUNFLOWER
Eriophyllum latilobum



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered
Federal Register Notice 60:6671; February 3, 1995
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr2779.pdf
(125 KB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS
This species was listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game in June 1992. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

CRITICAL HABITAT: Not designated

RECOVERY PLAN: Final
Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area; September 30, 1998.
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plan/980930c_v2.pdf (22 MB)

5-YEAR REVIEW: Started March 25, 2009
<http://www.fws.gov/policy/library/E8-4258.html>

DESCRIPTION



San Mateo Woolly Sunflower
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San Mateo woolly sunflower (*Eriophyllum latilobum*) is a bushy perennial of the aster family (Asteraceae) with leafy stems 30 to 60 centimeters (12 to 16 inches) high. The upper surfaces of the deeply three-cleft leaves are a smooth dark green and the lower surfaces are covered with densely interwoven white hairs. The golden flower heads are borne in loose clusters.

This plant is an herbaceous perennial, which flowers from April to June. Its pollinators include syrphid flies and bees. Because seed dispersal is by gravity, most seeds fall close to the parent plant. The species is difficult to grow in the greenhouse because of its susceptibility to white flies.

The species is found in shaded moist sites on steep grassy or sparsely wooded slopes, apparently growing best under or very near coast live oak. It has been found on both serpentine and non-serpentine soils.

See Hickman (1993) in General Information about California Plants, below, for a detailed description of the species.

SERPENTINE SOIL PLANTS:

Serpentine soils are formed from weathered volcanic (ultramafic) rocks such as serpentinite, dunite, and peridotite. These soils provide a harsh environment for plant growth. Several factors contribute to the inhospitability of serpentine soils to plant growth

- 1) Low calcium-magnesium ratio;
- 2) Lack of essential nutrients such as nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorous; and
- 3) High concentrations of heavy metals (mineral toxicity).

However, serpentine plant species have adapted to serpentine soils and require them to survive.

See the [recovery plan](#) (above) for more information about serpentine soil species.

Contact the Coastal Branch of our office (formerly the Coast-Bay-Delta Branch) at 916-414-6625 for consultations concerning serpentine soil species.

The Bay Checkerspot Butterfly [PDF](#) | [RTF](#) is an insect that depends on serpentine soil plants, primarily dwarf plantain (*Plantago erecta*).

DISTRIBUTION

The single remaining known occurrence of *Eriophyllum latilobum* consists of a few hundred plants scattered along 4kilometers (2.5 miles) of Crystal Springs Road in San Mateo County.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Mindego Hill (428C) 3712232, La Honda (429D)* 3712233, Montara Mountain (448C) 3712254, San Mateo (448D) 3712253. (*Believed extirpated.)

THREATS

Erosion and soil slippage, recreational development, road maintenance and garbage dumping.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[General references about California plants](#)

www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/plant_spp_accts/plant_references.htm

Kruckeberg, A.R. 1984a. California serpentines: Flora, vegetation, geology, soils, and management problems. University of California Press, Berkeley, California. 180 pp.

_____. 1984b. The flora on California's serpentine. *Fremontia* 11(5): 3-10.

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