



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
BAKER'S LARKSPUR
Delphinium bakeri



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered

Federal Register Notice 65:4156; January 26, 2000

http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr3506.pdf (145 KB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS

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

CRITICAL HABITAT: Designated in Federal Register Notice 68:12834; March 18, 2003.

http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr4079.pdf

RECOVERY PLAN: None

5-YEAR REVIEW: None

DESCRIPTION



Baker's Larkspur
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Delphinium bakeri is a perennial herb in the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae). It grows from a thickened, tuber-like, fleshy cluster of roots. The stems are hollow, erect, and grow to 65 centimeters (26 inches) tall.

Shallowly five-parted leaves occur primarily along the upper third of the stem and are green at the time the plant flowers. The flowers are irregularly shaped. The five sepals (outer most whorl or set of floral parts) are conspicuous, bright dark blue or purplish, with the rear sepal elongated into a spur. The inconspicuous petals occur in two pairs. The lower pair is oblong and blue-purple; the upper pair is oblique and white.

Seeds are produced in several dry, many-seeded fruits, which split open at maturity on only one side. The species flowers from April through May.

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

DISTRIBUTION

Over the years, Baker's larkspur has been found in only three locations – in Coleman Valley in southern Sonoma County; and in northern Marin County near the town of Tomales and



Baker's Larkspur
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approximately six miles east of Tomales Bay. Botanists believe the plant has been wiped out at two of those sites – Coleman Valley and Tomales. At the only known remaining location, east of Tomales Bay, the number of plants has varied from 0 to 64 over the last 20 years.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Petaluma (484B)* 3812226, Point Reyes NE (485A) 3812227, Tomales (485B)* 3812228, Camp Meeker (502B)* 3812248 (* Believed extirpated)

THREATS

Habitat conversion, grazing, and/or roadside maintenance activities have extirpated occurrences in Marin and Sonoma counties. The only known remaining population is found on a steep road bank in Marin County that is subject to roadwork, over-collection, and sheep grazing. It was damaged by roadwork in 2004. Whether it will survive is unknown.

Because of its extreme range restriction and small population size, the plant is also vulnerable to extinction from random events, such as fire or insect outbreaks.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[General references about California plants](#)

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

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