



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
SEBASTOPOL MEADOWFOAM
Limnanthes vinculans



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered
Federal Register Notice 56:61173; December 2, 1991
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr1980.pdf
(3.6 MB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:
This species was listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game in November 1979. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

CRITICAL HABITAT: None designated

RECOVERY PLAN: None

5-YEAR REVIEW: Completed 10/8/2008. No change.
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/five_year_review/doc1992.pdf

DESCRIPTION:



Close-Up of Sebastopol Meadowfoam
Mark W. Skinner @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS
Database

Sebastopol meadowfoam is a small (up to 12-inch tall), multi-stemmed herb of the false meadowfoam family (Limnanthaceae). Although the first leaves are narrow and undivided, leaves on the mature plant have three to five undivided leaflets along each side of a long stalk (petiole). The shape of the leaves distinguishes Sebastopol meadowfoam from other members of the *Limnanthes* genus.

Small, bowl-shaped, white flowers appear April through May. The white flowers are born singly at the end of stems.

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

VERNAL POOLS:

Vernal pools are a unique kind of wetland ecosystem. Central to their distinctive ecology is their ephemeral nature. Vernal pools fill with water temporarily, typically during the winter and spring, and then disappear until the next rainy season.



Sebastopol Meadowfoam
Copyright © 1994 Dean Wm. Taylor
Jepson Herbarium

In California, where extensive areas of vernal pool habitat developed over a long geological timeframe, unique suites of plants and animals have evolved that are specially adapted to the unusual conditions of vernal pools. Fish and other predators are among species that have been excluded evolutionarily by annual filling and drying cycles of vernal pools.

The prolonged annual dry phase of the vernal pool ecosystem also has prevented the establishment of plant species typical of more permanent wetland ecosystems.

DISTRIBUTION:

The species has not been recorded outside southwestern Cotati Valley, where it occurs in less than thirty locations. It is found in seasonally wet meadows, swales and vernal pools in the Laguna de Santa Rosa, Sonoma County. The species ranges from the city of Graton, east to Santa Rosa, southeast to Scenic Avenue, and southwest to the community of Cunningham, largely surrounding the northern and western perimeter of the city of Sebastopol.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Sears Point (483B) 3812224, Yountville (500A)? 3812243, Santa Rosa (501B) 3812246, Cotati (501C) 3812236, Sebastopol (502A) 3812247, Camp Meeker (502B)* 3812248, Two Rock (502D) 3812237, Mount St. Helena (517B) 3812266, Healdsburg (518D) 3812257 (* Presumed extirpated)

THREATS:

Primary threats to the species consist of activities that result in the destruction of the plants or hydrologic changes in their habitats. Such activities include urbanization, industrial development, agricultural land conversion, off-highway vehicle use, horseback riding, trampling by grazing cattle and road widening.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[General references about California plants](#)

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

For larger images and permission information see CalPhotos <http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/> and the USDS PLANTS Database <http://plants.usda.gov/>.

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825
Phone (916) 414-6600
FAX (916) 414-6713

Last updated February 23, 2010