



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
LOCH LOMOND COYOTE THISTLE
Eryngium constanceii



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered

Federal Register Notice 51:45907; December 23, 1986

http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr1203.pdf (470 KB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:

The species was listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game in January 1987 under the name Loch Lomond button-celery. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range), also as button-celery.

CRITICAL HABITAT: None designated

RECOVERY PLAN: Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon; December 15, 2005.

www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/recovery_plans/vp_recovery_plan_links.htm

5-YEAR REVIEW: Completed August 17, 2009. No change recommended.

http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/five_year_review/doc2520.pdf (679 KB)

DESCRIPTION:

Loch Lomond coyote-thistle, also known as Loch Lomond button-celery, is a perennial herb of the carrot family (Apiaceae). It annually produces slender, weak, leafless flowering stalks 20 to 30 centimeters (8-12 inches) tall from its over-wintering rootstock.

The mature leaves are 11 to 16 centimeters (4.3 to 6.3 inches) long, with the petiole accounting for most of the length. The leaf blade is lance-shaped and may have a smooth, sharply toothed, or lobed margin. The bracts are narrow, spiny-margined, and shorter than the leaves.

In this species, the rounded flower heads are only 3 to 5 millimeters (0.12 to 0.20 inch) in diameter; however, the stems supporting the flower heads may be as much as 8 centimeters (3.1 inches) long. Each flower head contains only five to seven tiny flowers. The petals are approximately 1 millimeter (0.04 inch) long and are white or tinged with purple. Fruits of this species are egg shaped and approximately 2 millimeters (0.08 inch) long.

A dense "down" of minute hairs, unique to this species, covers the leaves and especially the stalks. This character together with the species' sparse flowers, which bloom from April to June, distinguish it from its closest relative, *E. aristulatum* var. *aristulatum*, and all other species of western North American *Eryngium*. See Jepson Manual, below, for more information.



Loch Lomond Coyote Thistle
Rick York
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DISTRIBUTION:

Eryngium constancei has been reported in Lake and Sonoma Counties in California. Three occurrences have been reported to the California Natural Diversity Database, and we know of an additional locality in an unnamed pool near Cobb in Lake County.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Calistoga (517D) 3812255, Clearlake Highlands (533B) 3812286, Whispering Pines (533C) 3812276

THREATS:

Currently, only one of the four known sites is protected from the direct affects of development - the Loch Lomond Vernal Pool Ecological Reserve. Routine highway maintenance, trash dumping and, to a smaller degree, occasional fence vandalism, vehicle trespass, and trampling threaten this site. Additionally, the species is threatened by larger-scale hydrological changes. See the 5-year review, above, for more information about threats.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[General references about California plants](#)

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

[The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California](#). This is the standard reference about California plants. The Manual is available in an [online version](#). See also the [Jepson Online Interchange](#) for updates.

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