



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Species Account
SONOMA SPINEFLOWER
Chorizanthe valida



CLASSIFICATION: Endangered
Federal Register Notice 57:27848; June 22, 1992
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/federal_register/fr2073.pdf
(1.9 MB)

STATE LISTING STATUS AND CNPS CODE:
This species was listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game in January 1990. The California Native Plant Society has placed it on List 1B (rare or endangered throughout its range).

CRITICAL HABITAT: None designated

RECOVERY PLAN: Recovery Plan for Seven Coastal Plants and the Myrtle's Silverspot Butterfly, September 29, 1998
http://ecos.fws.gov/docs/recovery_plans/1998/980930d.pdf

5-YEAR REVIEW: Initiated March 25, 2009



Sonoma Spineflower
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DESCRIPTION:

Sonoma spineflower is an ascending or erect annual herb in the buckwheat family (Polygonaceae). It grows up to 30 decimeters (one foot) tall. It has highly branched slender soft-hairy stems.

The basal leaves are 1 to 2.5 centimeters (0.4 to 0.9 inch) long, 4-8 millimeters (0.2 to 0.3 inch) wide. They are often less hairy on the top surface than underneath. Flowers are 5 to 6 millimeters (0.2 to 0.3 inch) long.

Flowers bloom from June to August. Conspicuous spiny red and white bracts (stiff scaly or leaf-like

appendages) are associated with the flowers, which are clustered at the ends of stems in spiny masses. The inconspicuous flowers have six white to rose petal-like appendages, which are unequal in size.

Sonoma spineflower is very similar in overall appearance to the endangered Howell's spineflower (*Chorizanthe howellii*), which grows in coastal dunes north of Fort Bragg in Mendocino County, and is closely related to the threatened Monterey spineflower (*C. pungens*)

var. *pungens*), which grows from the Monterey Peninsula to Santa Cruz County, and the Ben Lomond spineflower (*C. p.* var. *hartwegiana*), which grows in Santa Cruz County. See Jepson Manual, below, for detailed descriptions of these species.

DISTRIBUTION:

The only extant populations are in the Point Reyes National Seashore. A naturally occurring population is in the Lunny pasture by Abbott's Lagoon. Two introduced populations are north of Creamery Bay. The historic range may have included Sonoma County as well as Marin.

U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Quads: Point Bonita (467D)* 3712275, Petaluma (484B)?* 3812226, Drakes Bay (485C) 3812218, Sonoma (500C)* 3812234, Sebastopol (502A)* 3812247, Fort Ross (519C)* 3812352 (* Presumed extirpated)



THREATS:

The rarity of Sonoma spineflower makes it exceptionally vulnerable to disturbances such as invasive nonnative species.

REFERENCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[General references about California plants](#)

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

Coppoletta, M., and B. Moritsch. 2002. Restoring the abundance of the endangered Sonoma spineflower.

www.nature.nps.gov/yearinreview/yir2000/pages/05_restoration/05_01_coppoletta.html

Davis, L.H. 1992a. The ecology of *Chorizanthe valida* Wats. Polygonaceae; the rare Sonoma spineflower at Point Reyes National Seashore, Marin County, California. Masters thesis, Sonoma State University.

Davis, L. H., and R. J. Sherman. 1992b. Ecological study of the rare *Chorizanthe valida* (POLYGONACEAE) at Point Reyes National Seashore California. *Madroño* 39:271-280.

[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.

Rilla, E., and L. Bush. 2009. The Changing Role of Agriculture in Point Reyes National Seashore. <http://cemarkin.ucdavis.edu/files/75438.pdf>

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