

GLOSSARY

common – occurring abundantly over large areas such that the taxon has no risk of global or regional extinction in the foreseeable future under realistic land use or pollution scenarios.

disjunct – a small portion of a taxon's range that is geographically distant from other portions of its range. For the purposes of lichen conservation as currently viewed by the California Lichen Society, the distance should be at least 100 kilometers.

distribution – locations and abundance of a taxon within its range.

disturbance – an event, anthropogenic or natural, that kills members of a population or reduces the amount or quality of the available habitat.

global rarity rank – a number from 1 to 5 describing the rarity of a species. From the NatureServe web site (<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/ranking.htm>):

- 1 = critically imperiled
- 2 = imperiled
- 3 = vulnerable to extirpation or extinction
- 4 = apparently secure
- 5 = demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure.

uncertainty with a particular rank may be represented with a question mark (i.e. 'G2?' is thought to be truly a G2 but some reason for uncertainty remains). Greater uncertainty may be represented by a range (i.e. 'G1G3' is thought to truly deserve a rank somewhere in the range of G1 through G3). NatureServe and most Heritage programs combine rarity and threat into a single 'global rank' number, however CALS wishes to track these numbers separately, so please base your ranks on rarity only. See 'global threat rank' for more details.

global threat rank – a number from 1 to 3: 1 = very threatened (i.e. imminent or pending destruction of one or more globally significant populations), 2 = threatened (likely destruction of one or more globally significant populations if taxon is ignored), 3 = no threats. These numbers are often suffixed to the global rarity rank (e.g. G3.1 would have few enough global populations as to be vulnerable to regional extirpation or extinction and would have imminent or pending threats). NatureServe and most Heritage programs combine rarity and threat into a single global rank. In that case a threat of 1 might reduce a rank by as much as a full point such that a G3.1 in our system might be ranked G2 by NatureServe.

List (CNPS-equivalent) – we are trying to match our definitions to those of the California Native Plant Society. Their web-site provides detailed definitions. CALS has not adopted any modifications to date, though since we are covering multiple states, you may read each use of 'California' as 'the relevant state'. In brief, the lists are:

- 1A = Presumed Extinct [in state]
- 1B = Rare, Threatened, or Endangered [in state] *and* elsewhere
(rare endemics would be included here)
- 2 = Rare, Threatened, or Endangered [in state] *but* not-everywhere in its total range
- 3 = Need more information [we intend this list to be used only for taxa where base

sponsorship information has been developed and the committee has agreed to proceed, but await further information before placing on other lists]
4 = Limited distribution (a watch-list)

local rarity rank – a number from 1 to 5 describing the rarity of a species. From the NatureServe web site (<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/ranking.htm>):

1 = critically imperiled
2 = imperiled
3 = vulnerable to extirpation or extinction
4 = apparently secure
5 = demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure.

uncertainty with may be represented as described for global rarity ranks. NatureServe and most Heritage programs combine rarity and threat into a single ‘state rank’ number, however, following the California Natural Diversity Database, CALS wishes to track these numbers separately, so please base your ranks on rarity only. See ‘local threat rank’ for more details.

local threat rank – a number from 1 to 3: 1 = very threatened (i.e. imminent or pending destruction of one or more significant populations), 2 = threatened (likely destruction of one or more significant populations if taxon is ignored), 3 = no threats. Populations significant locally are not necessarily significant globally. Therefore the global and local threat ranks need not match. These numbers are often suffixed to the local rarity rank (e.g. S3.1 would have few enough state populations as to be vulnerable to state extirpation or extinction and would have imminent or pending threats within the state). NatureServe and most Heritage programs combine rarity and threat into a single state rank. In that case a threat of 1 might reduce a rank by as much as a full point such that an S3.1 in our system might be ranked S2 by NatureServe.

locally abundant – frequent occurrence in small areas with geographically large zones of absence in between.

population – a group of occurrences separated from other occurrences by a distance of ¼ mile in California, or 1 kilometer in other states. This is admittedly a political definition. Much research is needed before a biological definition can really be considered.

range – The geographic extent of a taxon’s populations. Compare with ‘distribution’.

rare – seldom found, even when looked for by a competent searcher.

sporadic – not necessarily rare, but not occurring in all seemingly good habitat, with large distances between occurrences, and not usually occurring in abundance.

viable – a population with a good chance of persisting as long as no serious disturbance occurs.