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LETTERS

Dear Editor:

In a recent article by R. Becking (Madroño 33:175–181, 1986), *Hastingsia bracteosa* (= *Schoenolirion bracteosum*) is cited as a species listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In fact, *H. bracteosa* is merely a *candidate* for such status according to the reference given by Dr. Becking (USFWS, Federal Register 45:82479–82569, 1980). While this may seem a minor point, there are tremendous legal differences between formally listed taxa and those under consideration for listing. It is therefore imperative that we clearly and accurately define the status of rare species discussed in our papers. Powell and Howard (Madroño 25:59, 1978) emphasize the importance of addressing the subjects of rarity and potential endangerment of plant species in published research. In echoing their plea, I would respectfully add that we choose our wording carefully in order to avoid further complication of an intricate land management issue.

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Dear Editor:

In reading the recent article describing *Hastingsia atropurpurea* (Madroño 33:175–181, 1986), the author, Rudolf Becking, erroneously reported that *H. bracteosa* was “an endangered species”, citing a notice published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the *Federal Register* (45:82479–82569, 1980). However, this notice only indicated that *Schoenolirion bracteosa* was a category 1 “candidate” species (taxa for which the Service currently has on file substantial information on biological vulnerability relating to autecology and distribution and threat(s) to support the appropriateness of proposing to list the taxa as endangered or threatened species), not an “endangered” species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The generic epithet was changed to *Hastingsia* in the *Federal Register* (48:53651) in 1983. The most-recent notice in the *Federal Register* (50:39554, 1985) reaffirmed the 1983 notice. Copies of all three notices may be obtained from my office upon request.

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