

## NOTEWORTHY COLLECTION

### CALIFORNIA

*CALYPTRIDIMUM PYGMAEUM* Parish ex Rydberg (MONTIACEAE).—San Bernardino Co., Transverse Ranges, San Bernardino Mountains, Bluff Mesa, Castle Rock Trail region, N of Forest Road 2N86, 34.226, -116.963, 8 July 2010, C. Craig, G. Richmond, K. Day s.n. (JEPS, RSA); 24 May 2012, C.M. Williams & G. Richmond 1915, 1917, 1920, 1921, 1923 (JEPS, RSA, UCR).

*Previous knowledge.* *Calyptridium pygmaeum* is a seldom-collected annual plant in the Montiaceae, formerly in the Portulacaceae. With only 15 documented occurrences, this California endemic is found primarily in the central and southern Sierra Nevada, although three occurrences are in the San Bernardino Mountains approximately 229 km to the south. In this latter region, *C. pygmaeum* was collected at Bear Lake in 1886 (Parish 1803), Bluff Lake in 1926 (Munz 10534), and Arrastre Flat in 1979 (Helmkamp & Helmkamp s.n.). Based only upon the history of collection, this taxon appears to be either very rare throughout its limited range or possibly under-collected due to its small size and ephemeral nature; likely both factors contribute to the paucity of collections of *C. pygmaeum*. Herbarium label habitat descriptions are often wanting for *C. pygmaeum*, but when present, these data suggest that this taxon is often encountered in open areas in pine forest, sometimes in mesic conditions, e.g., meadow and creek margins.

*Significance.* In October 2008, *C. pygmaeum* was added to the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants as a List 1B.2. Following the listing, San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) botanists began to research the history of the three occurrences on SBNF lands. Through examination of Munz's field records, it was possible for SBNF botanists to narrow the domain of focused searches in the Bluff Lake area to the region surrounding the Castle Rock Trail, approximately 0.3 km north of Forest Road 2N86. A population of *C. pygmaeum* was found in this area in 2010 by SBNF botanists Craig, Richmond, and Day. A subsequent visit in 2012 by Williams and Richmond documented numerous other occurrences in the general vicinity (C. M. Williams and G. Richmond 1915, 1917, 1920, 1921, 1923). These recent collections are confirmation that the species remains extant in the San Bernardino Mountains. This is especially important given that the Bear Valley population from which Parish collected in 1886 was potentially extirpated during the flooding of the valley (initiated in 1884) to create Big Bear Lake. In addition, our limited surveys in the Bluff Lake area appear to

support the hypothesis derived from herbarium label data that *C. pygmaeum* occurs in slightly more mesic conditions than other congeners. We often encountered it in slightly lower topographic positions near creeks, in sheltered areas under trees, and in shaded areas on the north sides of shrubs and rocks. It was occasionally found in open, exposed areas as well. In all cases, *C. pygmaeum* was found in sparsely vegetated areas on coarse granitic substrates, and in this way it is similar to close relatives.

*LEWISIA TRIPHYLLA* (S. Watson) B.L. Robinson (MONTIACEAE).—San Bernardino Co., Bluff Mesa, ca. 60 m N of Forest Road 2N86, yellow pine forest, growing in the bank of a small, ephemeral, unnamed creek; soils wet, of decomposed granite. 34.2238, -116.9627, 24 May 2012, C. M. Williams & G. Richmond 1934 (JEPS, RSA, UCR).

*Previous knowledge.* *Lewisia triphylla* is a diminutive (2 to 7 cm) perennial herb in the Montiaceae. Unlike other members of the genus that develop a taproot, this taxon arises from a small, spherical, corm-like structure and produces few basal leaves. As suggested by the specific epithet, this taxon generally bears three leaves, but these are presented in a whorl along the short flowering stem. This widespread taxon is distributed throughout western North America, from southwestern British Columbia in the north to Colorado in the east. Prior to our collection, the southern-most occurrence was from South Fork Meadows in Sequoia National Park (Ferris and Lorraine 10860, UC).

*Significance.* This collection of *L. triphylla* is the southwestern-most occurrence of the species, a new record for the Transverse Ranges (including the San Bernardino Mountains), and a new county record for San Bernardino Co. Interestingly, like *C. pygmaeum*, *L. triphylla* has a disjunct distribution between the southern Sierra Nevada and the San Bernardino Mountains. In the case of *L. triphylla*, this collection is a 280-km southern range extension for the taxon. It seems likely that *L. triphylla* has escaped detection in this area due to its inconspicuous appearance. Additional searches along stream margins following snow-melt in the spring may result in the location of additional populations.

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Guilliams, C. Matt, Richmond, Gina, and Eliason, Scott A. 2013. "California." *Madroño; a West American journal of botany* 60, 56–56.  
<https://doi.org/10.3120/0024-9637-60.1.56>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/202912>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.3120/0024-9637-60.1.56>

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