

San Joaquin Woolly-threads (*Monolopia congdoni*)

Status -- Federal: Endangered; California: None



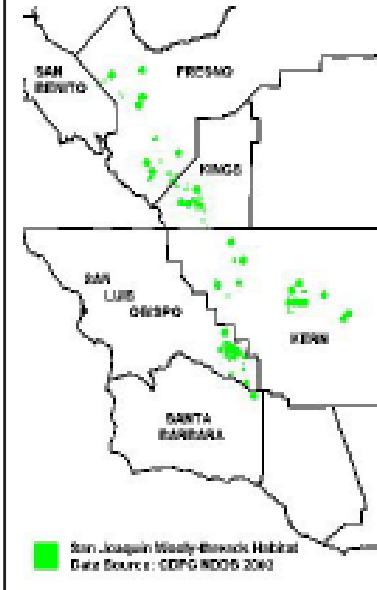
FLOWER HEADS

© 2004 Robert E. Preston, Ph.D.

© Dr. Dean Wm. Taylor
Jason Harshbarger, UC Berkeley

San Joaquin woolly-threads, is an annual herb in the sunflower family (Asteraceae). The common name “woolly-threads” is derived from the many long (up to 18 inches) trailing stems covered with tangled hairs. However, the growth pattern of these plants varies, some can be tiny (less than 3 inches) and erect with a single stem. It has tiny yellow flower heads clustered at the tips of the stems. Each flower head is approximately 0.25 inches long. Its seeds may

San Joaquin Woolly-threads



germinate as early as November, but usually germinate in December and January. Flowering generally occurs between late February and early April, and may continue into May. All traces of San Joaquin woolly-threads disappear rapidly after seeds are shed in April or May. Seed dispersal agents are unknown, but may include wind, water and animals.

Distribution: San Joaquin woolly-threads grows on neutral to sub-alkaline soils. On the San Joaquin Valley floor, it typically is found on sandy or sandy loam soils, whereas in the Carrizo Plain it occurs on silty soils. It has been reported from elevations ranging from 200 to 850 feet on the San Joaquin Valley floor, and from 2,000 to 2,600 feet in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara

counties. This species is found only in the southern San Joaquin Valley and surrounding hills. Its original range extended from southern Fresno and Tulare counties to Bakersfield and Cuyama Valley. It currently exists as four metapopulations (separate populations between which there is some migration and gene flow) and several small, isolated populations. The largest metapopulation occurs on the Carrizo Plain, where occupied habitat varies from a high of 2,800 acres in a favorable year to much less in years of lower rainfall. Much smaller metapopulations occur in Kern County near Lost Hills, in the Kettleman Hills of Fresno and Kings counties, and in the Jacalitos Hills of Fresno County. Isolated occurrences are known from the Panoche Hills in Fresno and San Benito counties, near the city of Bakersfield and the Cuyama Valley.



California Department of Pesticide Regulation
Endangered Species Project
www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/endspec/index.htm

