



Mt. Diablo Buckwheat A Rare Species Rediscovered

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

This special plant needs your help! Another population of Mt. Diablo buckwheat would help protect this species from extinction. If you think you've found Mt. Diablo buckwheat, please help by documenting where you saw the plant, but **please do not collect it**. Photos are very helpful. An image of the whole plant and close-up of the flowers will aid in identification. Provide GPS coordinates or show the location on a map. If you are in Mt. Diablo State Park, please notify Ms. Cyndy Shaffer at (707) 769-5652 ext. 208, or contact Michael Park at the University of California, Berkeley at (510) 642-2465 or via email at dpbot@berkeley.edu.

Produced by the
California Department of Parks and Recreation
and
Save Mount Diablo



Images © Scott Hein, except as noted.
Graphic design by Mary Ann Showers,
California Department of Fish and Game

WHY IT IS SPECIAL:

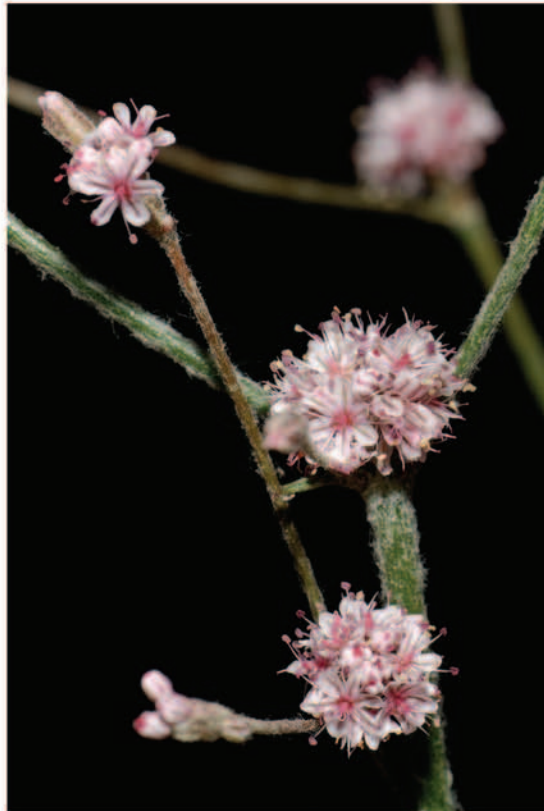
Mt. Diablo buckwheat was last seen on Mt. Diablo in 1936 and was thought to be extinct. It was rediscovered in 2005 by Michael Park, a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley. He found only 20 plants. In spring 2006, Michael found 90 plants. Does Mt. Diablo buckwheat occur elsewhere in Mt. Diablo State Park or in Morgan Territory? Biologists don't know, but believe it is likely since the buckwheat is easily overlooked.



© Mary Ann Showers, DFG

WHERE IT IS FOUND:

Mt. Diablo buckwheat was found in bare sandy to clayey soil between non-native grassland and chaparral. It has also been reported from coastal scrub and oak woodlands. Now known only from one site on Mt. Diablo, the plant was found previously at several locations in the vicinity of Mt. Diablo and Marsh Creek in Contra Costa County and at Suisun in Solano County.



WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

Mt. Diablo buckwheat is a delicate annual plant with branching stems to 8 to 12 inches in height (@ 30 cm). Flower heads are composed of several pink flowers that have a red line in the center of each petal and petal-like sepal. Flowers are tiny, less than 1/8 inch in length (@2 mm). Flower heads are at the tips of stems and also at the junction of two branching stems. Flower stems have a close cover of white hairs so that the stems appear grayish in color. Leaves are found at the base of the plants and on the lower branches. Leaves are broader near the leaf tip, tapering to the leaf base or oblong. The surfaces of the leaves are greenish with white hairs; undersides are white with dense hairs. Leaves dry reddish in color. Mt. Diablo buckwheat blooms typically from May to June.