

***PYRROCOMA STENOCEPHALA* (ASTERACEAE: ASTEREAE)
FROM CALIFORNIA**

GUY L. NESOM

Research Associate

Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

guynesom@sbcglobal.net

ABSTRACT

Haplopappus paniculatus var. *stenocephalus* A. Gray is recognized as ***Pyrrocoma stenocephala*** (A. Gray) Nesom, **comb. et stat. nov.** It apparently is known only from the type collection and one other, both by J.G. Lemmon in 1874, and apparently is narrowly endemic in an unusual habitat somewhere in the Sierra-Plumas-Lassen county region, where Lemmon was collecting. Type specimens and details are illustrated.

Hall (1928) identified *Haplopappus paniculatus* var. *stenocephalus* A. Gray as a "minor variant" of *Haplopappus racemosus* subsp. *glomerulatus* (an Oregon endemic). He noted that the inflorescence branching is "believed to be an abnormality, for it has been reproduced in the garden by injuring the young tips of plants which normally bear only spicate or racemose inflorescences" and that until a possible identity with an established subspecies of *H. racemosus* might be determined, "it is perhaps well to retain the form in the list of minor variations." The type gathering of var. *stenocephalus*, plus the K specimen, includes at least 6 plants, none of which shows obvious sign of injury or abnormality.

Lemmon's plants are distinct from all other species of California and Nevada. The most immediate distinction is very small, few-rayed heads produced on short distal branches. The lack of persistent fibrous remnants of petiolar vascular bundles is characteristic of only a few species groups in the genus — in California this occurs in the *Pyrrocoma carthamoides* group and *P. lanulosa*.

The taxonomic recognition of var. *stenocephalus* is emphasized here by its elevation to specific rank, at least as motivation toward further study by California botanists.

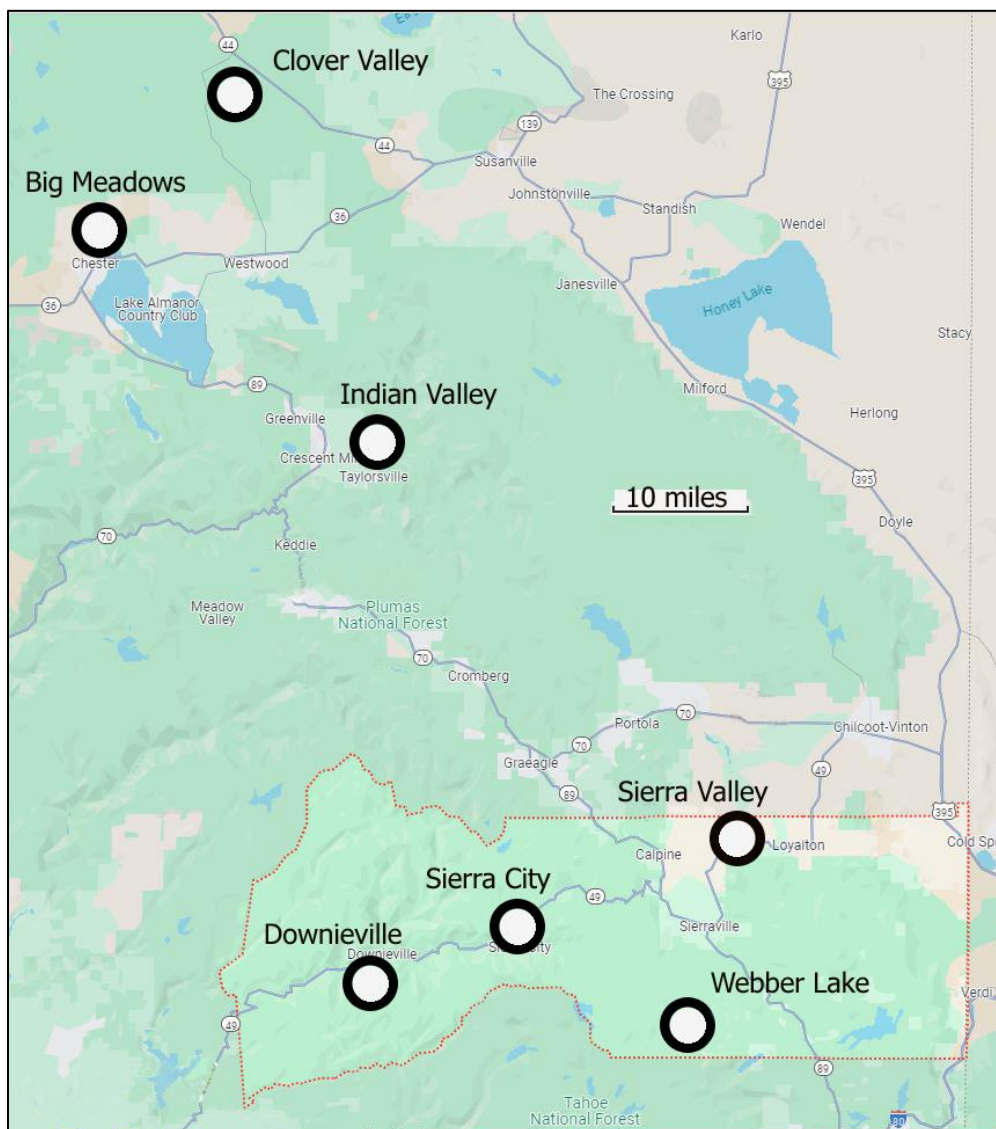
PYRROCOMA STENOCEPHALA (A. Gray) Nesom, **comb. et stat. nov.** *Haplopappus paniculatus* var. *stenocephalus* A. Gray, Bot. Calif. 1: 312. 1876. *Haplopappus racemosus* var. *stenocephalus* (A. Gray) A. Gray, Synopt. Fl. N. Amer. 12: 127. 1884. **TYPE: California.** Sierra Co. &c: Without other locality data, 1874, *J.G. Lemmon* 98 (holotype: GH, fragment-UC; isotypes: CM, MO, NY-3 sheets, PH).

Stems 20–32 cm, erect to erect-ascending; stems, leaves, and involucre completely glabrous, eglandular. **Leaves:** basal (6–)9–14 cm long, blades narrowly elliptic, 5.5–12 mm wide, basally attenuate to a petiolar region, without persistent fibrous remnants of vascular bundles, margins entire or with very a few, minute denticles; cauline 4–6, mostly linear-oblong. **Heads** in a short-peduncled raceme but peduncles usually elongating to 1–3 cm and the inflorescence cymoid; involucre 6–8 mm wide (pressed), phyllaries in 3–4 series, strongly graduated in length, inner 8–10.5 mm long, oblong with a deltate-short-acuminate apex, distal green patch ca. 1/3 the phyllary length. **Ray florets** 7–10, corollas 10–12.5 mm long, ligules 1–1.5 mm wide. **Disc corollas** ca. 5.5–6.5 mm long. **Achenes** ca. 3.5–4 mm long, sericeous-strigose.

Additional collection. California. "Sierra Co &c," 1874, *J.G. Lemmon* 670 (K).

Lemmon's collections from "Sierra County" (as labeled) give little or no other locality information. Of his collections in 1874, some labels specify these sites: Big Meadows [ca. Chester], Indian Valley [Plumas Co.], Clover Valley [Lassen Co.], Downieville and Downieville Buttes, Sierra City, and Webber Lake and "near Webber Lake" [Sierra Co.], Sierra Valley [Plumas and Sierra cos.]. Of numbered collections nearest to 98 and 670, all are labeled simply as "Sierra Co." or "Sierra Co. &c." Thus, the collections of var. *stenocephalus* may have come from Sierra, Plumas, or Lassen county (Map 1).

It is unusual that this species has not been encountered since 1874 from a locality that Lemmon probably visited at least twice. Presumably the habitat is unusual and restricted in occurrence.



Map 1. Label localities from Lemmon's 1874 collections said to be from Sierra County or "Sierra Co. &c." Most labels do not give a locality beyond "Sierra Co." or "Sierra Co. &c." Sierra County is outlined in red.

LITERATURE CITED

- Hall, H.M. 1928. The Genus *Haplopappus*. A Phylogenetic Study in the Compositae. Publ. Carnegie Inst. Washington 389: 1–391.



Figure 1. *Pyrrocoma stenocephala*. Holotype (GH). The two plants at the left (Lemmon 120, 1875) are a different species, collected in the Sierra Valley (Nesom in prep.).



Figure 2. *Pyrrocoma stenocephala*. Isotype (NY).



Figure 3. *Pyrrocoma stenocephala*. Isotype (MO).



Figure 4. *Pyrrocoma stenocephala*. Base of plant from holotype (GH).



Figure 5. *Pyrrocoma stenocephala*. Base of plant Lemmon 670 (K).



Figure 6. *Pyrrocoma stenocephala*. Heads from holotype (GH).



Figure 7. *Pyrrocoma stenocephala*. Heads from holotype (GH).



Figure 8. *Pyrrocoma stenocephala*. Heads from isotype (PH).



Figure 9. *Pyrrocoma stenocephala*. Heads from Lemmon 670 (K).