

NOTE ON *ERYTHRANTHE WILLISII* (PHRYMACEAE)

GUY L. NESOM

Research Associate

Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

guynesom@sbcglobal.net

ABSTRACT

The concept of *Erythranthe willisii* is restricted to plants occurring directly on serpentine rocks and soil immediately derived from serpentine in Serpentine Canyon, Plumas Co., California.

The original description and concept of *Erythranthe willisii* (Nesom 2017) included the type and populations in close proximity (perhaps justifiably considered as a single population), all from a small area within Serpentine Canyon (North Fork Feather River in Plumas County, California) and a tributary canyon (East Branch of the North Fork, along Caribou Road) and all unambiguously on serpentine rock or soil/talus/gravel immediately derived from it. Also included and mapped as *E. willisii* were plants in the general vicinity east and west (Plumas, Butte, Yuba counties) that occur on small areas of serpentine as well as substrates influenced by serpentine but not strictly so. All of these, including the type, had previously been regarded as *Erythranthe moschata*.

On review, however, plants from localities peripheral to Serpentine Canyon are better identified as *Erythranthe moschata* and the concept of *E. willisii* should be restricted to the type and populations in the immediate vicinity — those on serpentine, perhaps including a few plants carried downstream and growing on serpentine gravel.

Excellent photos have been posted on Calflora, Facebook, and iNaturalist, including several from downstream of the main population center (e.g., Mike Russler, 23 Jun 2025, Calflora io161188; David Popp, 31 May 2026, Calflora mg317777; Lowell Ahart, 8 Oct 2006, Calflora 24727).

LITERATURE CITED

Nesom, G.L. 2017. Taxonomic review of the *Erythranthe moschata* complex (Phrymaceae). Phytoneuron 2017-17: 1–29.



Erythranthe willisii. iNaturalist photo, Charlie Russell, 18 June 2026.