

Eric, please docket the following e-mail exchange to document the results of my investigation on the taxonomic status of the poppy found during the Beacon surveys. This is from Shannon Still, a Ph.D. student in the Plant Biology Graduate Group at the University of California at Davis, mentored by Professor Dan Potter, a specialist in Systematics and Evolutionary Biology. Mr. Still's dissertation research concerns phylogenetic relationships, species delimitation, and taxonomy of *Eschscholzia* (Papaveraceae), the genus to which the California poppy (*E. californica*) belongs.

On Fri August 7, 2009, at 4:24 PM, Shannon Still wrote:

Carolyn,

The email address is correct.

Well, based upon the photos, I'd say that the plant is the actually not one of the *E. minutiflora* subspecies. I believe that the plant is *E. californica*, more specifically, likely *E. cal. ssp. californica*.

The petals are indeed fairly small but I actually have found occasional *E. californica* plants with smaller petals than these. While unusual, the other characters of the plants still indicate *E. californica* and the molecular work on the plants of the ones I collected as such have always indicated *E. californica* as well (I was always a bit shocked at the size so I would run some sequences on unusual *Eschscholzia* like that). My guess is that the dry conditions of the given year led to smaller flowers than usual. So, while small, the petal size does seem to fit the natural range of *E. californica* from what I have seen and collected.

More important to the identification is the wide receptacle rim (often referred to as the "torus" in *Eschscholzia*). This feature is non-existent in all subspecies of *E. minutiflora* to such a large size. And the foliage of the specimen in the image is pretty typical for *E. californica*.

I have collected *E. californica* in the Jawbone Canyon area last year and it was all over the hillsides. I am sure it was also in some of the canyons further north of my collections.

Let me know if you have any further questions.

Shannon

On Aug 7, 2009, at 3:10 PM, Carolyn Chainey-Davis wrote:

Hi Shannon

Regarding the CEC review of the Red Rock poppy issue for that solar project near Mojave....

**DOCKET**

**08-AFC-2**

DATE 08/07/09

RECD. 08/19/09

The Applicant's botanists did take photos of the single specimen found on that plant site.....see attached. How do these photos jibe with an assumption of E.m. covillei vs. E.. twisselmannii ? Any insights on leaf characters from this photo?

Thank you very much,

Carolyn Chainey-Davis  
On behalf of: California Energy Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Eric Solorio [<mailto:ESolorio@energy.state.ca.us>]  
Sent: August 06, 2009 9:17 AM  
To: Carolyn Chainey-Davis; Susan Sanders; Rick York  
Subject: Fwd: Poppy

Attached is info regarding poppy on Beacon site...pertaining to addressing CURE comment.  
<mime-attachment.eml>