This status review is being expedited through an agreement between the California Native Plant Society and the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), with contributions from the state of California, CPC, and the California Plant Rescue initiative. Aside from being advanced as part of this agreement, the process, content, and information provided herein is not altered, modified, or developed differently in any way or form compared to other status reviews developed by CNPS.

Background and Taxonomy

*Sedum paradisum* (Denton) Denton ex. B. L. Wilson subsp. *subroseum* B. L. Wilson & Zika is a perennial herb in the Crassulaceae endemic to California where it is known from Plumas and Sierra counties (Zika et al. 2022, CCH2 2024, iNaturalist 2024). It is not included in *The Jepson Manual* (Denton 1993) or *Flora of North America* (Ohba 2009). It is included in the *Jepson eFlora* (Zika et al. 2022). In their 2018 paper on *Sedum* section *Gormania* of western North America, the members of the Carex Working Group examined populations belonging to section *Gormania* and redefined species limits (Zika et al. 2018). Plants previously thought to be *S. obtusatum* subsp. *boreale* on slopes north of the Middle Yuba River were reassigned to *S. paradisum* subsp. *subroseum*, a taxon with corollas white fading to pink (rather than pale to deep yellow in *S. obtusatum*) (Zika et al. 2018, Zika et al. 2022). *Sedum paradisum* subsp. *subroseum* is named for the reddish colors found in the fresh and aged petals as well as the rusty red anthers (Zika et al. 2018).

Ecology

This species grows on steep, rocky slopes and cliffs, in full sun to partial shade, within lower and upper montane coniferous forest at elevations of (914) 1308–2164 m. [Note that the elevation of 914 m may be an error taken from Ahart s.n. (CAS:BOT:932358) which is from La Porte; La Porte is at 1525 m, not 914. This error is likely responsible for the low elevation of 900 m given in the *Jepson eFlora* (Zika et al. 2022)]. The substrate where this species grows includes granite, andesite, serpentinite, peridotite, volcanics, schist, and shale (CWG 2016, Zika et al. 2018, Zika et al. 2022, CCH2 2024). Plants have been observed in flower from June to August (and very early September) (Zika et al. 2022, CCH2 2024). Associates include *Pinus* spp., *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Abies magnifica*, *A. concolor*, *Calocedrus decurrens*, *Quercus vaccinifolia*, *Arctostaphylos* spp., *Eriogonum* spp., *Phlox diffusa*, *Penstemon newberryi*, *Spiraea splendens*, *Streptanthus tortuosus*, *Poa secunda*, and *Cheilanthes gracillima* (Zika et al. 2018, CCH2 2024).

Distribution and Abundance

We investigated location records for *Sedum paradisum* subsp. *subroseum* from the following sources: two taxonomic papers (Denton 1982, Zika et al. 2018); a spreadsheet of *Sedum* section *Gormania* species locations compiled by the Carex Working Group (CWG 2016); and online specimen and observation data (Calflora 2024, CalPhotos 2024, CCH2 2024, iNaturalist 2024). Based on those sources, *Sedum paradisum* subsp. *subroseum* is currently known from 38
occurrence records in Plumas and Sierra counties; sources that state that this taxon is in Butte County are based on a label-making error that was carried into the Zika et al. 2018 publication and some online sources (Zika et al. 2018, CCH2 2024, Wilson 2024 pers. comm.). Of the 38 locations, only nine are historical (last observed over 20 years ago), and the other 29 are recent. Almost no data on population sizes are available, with one observation of 100 to 1000 individuals recorded for the much-visited location south of Onion Valley, Plumas County (Record 28). In addition to that location, specimen label data state that the plants are common at eight locations, locally abundant at one, scattered at two, and uncommon at two. The majority of the occurrences are on National Forest lands: 25 on the Plumas NF, eight on the Tahoe NF, two within Plumas-Eureka State Park, one on lands owned by the Sierra Land Trust, and two on lands of unknown ownership. Three of the locations in the Plumas National Forest are within the Bucks Lake Wilderness. At the bottom of the location table are nine rows highlighted in pink that are not included in this distribution and occurrence analysis. Six records are excluded because the locations are out of range; the other three have their locations obscured. Add in attempts to get more info about obscured locations and info about shasta county locations.

Plumas NF sent information on number of plants known on the forest = 2973 plants and two shape files. The shape files document six occurrences. Three are the same as records 28, 29, and 33. Three appear to be new for the location table at approximately 39.889, -120.961, 39.886, -120.927, 39.813, -120.864.

**Status and Threats**

*Sedum paradisum* subsp. *subroseum* is ranked as T2 (imperiled) by NatureServe (NatureServe 2024) and considered of conservation concern by Zika et al. (2018). Like all *Sedum* species, populations could be are threatened by horticultural collectors (Zika et al. 2018). It is also possibly threatened by fire, fire suppression activities, road maintenance, and off highway vehicles (Belsher 2023 pers. comm., Kierstead 2023 pers. comm.). This species was observed crown-sprouting after the 2020 North Complex Fire (CCH2 2024 [Janeway 13911]), but it could be impacted by hot fires that affect underground stems and roots (Kierstead 2023, pers. comm.).

**Summary**

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDB recommend adding *Sedum paradisum* subsp. *subroseum* to California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2 of the CNPS Inventory. If knowledge on the distribution, threats, and rarity status of *Sedum paradisum* subsp. *subroseum* changes in the future, we will re-evaluate its status at that time.

**Recommended Actions**

CNPS: Add *Sedum paradisum* subsp. *subroseum* to CRPR 1B.2
CNDDB: Add *Sedum paradisum* subsp. *subroseum* to G3G4T2 / S2

**Draft CNPS Inventory Record**

*Sedum paradisum* (Denton) Denton ex. B. L. Wilson ssp. *subroseum* B. L. Wilson & Zika

Common name: Plumas stonecrop
Family: Crassulaceae
CRPR 1B.2

Sent to: SN, J. Kierstead, S. Darington, R. Brainerd, H. Ohba, N. Otting, B. Wilson, P. Zika on 2024-03-29
*Sedum paradisum* subsp. *subroseum*

**Element Code:** PDCRA0A2A1  
**Added to CRPR 1B.2 on 2024-05-24**  

**Counties:** Plumas, Sierra  
**States:** California  
**Quad names:** Blue Nose Mtn. (3912077), Bucks Lake (3912182), Clio (3912065), Gold Lake (3912066), Haskins Valley (3912172), Johnsville (3912076), La Porte (3912068), Mt. Fillmore (3912067), Onion Valley (3912078), Quincy (3912088), Sierra City (3912056)  
**General Habitat:** Lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest  
**Microhabitat:** Openings, rocky, serpentine, granitic, volcanic  
**Microhabitat details:** Grows on cliffs and steep rocky slopes, in full sun to partial shade, within lower and upper montane coniferous forest.  
**Elevation:** 1305–2165 meters  
**Life form:** Perennial herb  
**Blooms:** June through August (very early September)  
**Notes:** References to this taxon growing in Butte County in Zika et al. 2018 are an error. Reports of this species growing near 900 m in elevation may be based on a label error for *Ahart s.n.* (CAS:BOT:932358) which is from La Porte with a stated elevation of 914 m; La Porte is at 1525 m, not 914. This error is likely responsible for the low elevation of 900 m given in the *Jepson eFlora*.  
**Threats:** Possibly threatened by fire, fire suppression activities, road maintenance, vehicles, and horticultural collecting.  
**Taxonomy:** Resembles *Sedum obtusatum* from which it differs by having petals that are white fading to pink (versus pale to deep yellow). Plants previously referred to *S. obtusatum* ssp. *boreale* in Plumas and Sierra counties now determined to be *S. paradisum* ssp. *subroseum*. *Sedum paradisum* ssp. *subroseum* is geographically separated from *S. obtusatum* by the Middle Fork of the Yuba River in Sierra County.  

**Selected references:**  
- CNPS Status Review: Proposed Addition to CRPR 1B.2 (2024)  

**Literature Cited**  
Calflora. 2024. Information on wild California plants for conservation, education, and appreciation. Website http://www.calflora.org/ [accessed March 2024; no observations in the observation database].  


Sent to: SN, J. Kierstead, S. Darington, R. Brainerd, H. Ohba, N. Otting, B. Wilson, P. Zika on 2024-03-29
Sedum paradisum subsp. subroseum  


iNaturalist. 2024. Available at: https://inaturalist.org [accessed March 2024].


Personal Communications

Bovee, Kirsten. 2024. Botanist, USDA Forest Service. Email correspondence regarding location, population size, and coordinates for CalPhotos observation/photos. Personal communication 8 April 2024. Add in that asked for pop info even if doesn’t reply

Janeway – add in that asked about population info even if doesn’t reply


Wilson, B. L. 2024. Botanist, Carex Working Group and Associate, Herbarium Oregon State University. Email correspondence regarding citation of Butte County in Zika et al. 2018 paper and other specimen questions. Personal communication 26 March 2024. Add info about iNat

Sent to: SN, J. Kierstead, S. Darington, R. Brainerd, H. Ohba, N. Otting, B. Wilson, P. Zika on 2024-03-29
Sedum paradisum subsp. subroseum

observation and CWG111 from Nevada County and other Nevada County observation 5 April 2024

Zika, Peter. 2021. Botanist and Associate of the Burke Museum, University of Washington. Email correspondence regarding locations of Sedum species and sharing of 2016 CWG location spreadsheet. Personal communication 18 March 2021. Add in that contacted about pop info whether or not replies

Sent to: SN, J. Kierstead, S. Darington, R. Brainerd, H. Ohba, N. Otting, B. Wilson, P. Zika on 2024-03-29