

KECK'S CHECKERBLOOM (*SIDALCEA KECKII*)

Federal/California status: Endangered/--
California Native Plant Society List 1B



Description

Keck's checkerbloom is a showy annual in the mallow family (Malvaceae). Another name for this species is Keck's checker-mallow. The slender, hairy stems are 6 to 9 inches (15 to 35 cm) tall. Each plant has only a few leaves and flowers. The leaves are rounded in outline and vary from shallowly- to deeply-lobed on the same plant. The deep pink, five-petaled flowers are shaped like a cup or bowl and may be as much as 2 inches (5 cm) across. Two color forms of the flower have been observed; one is solid pink, and the other has a darker center formed by a large, maroon spot near the base of each petal. Keck's checkerbloom flowers in April and May.

Habitat

It grows in grasslands and grassy openings in blue oak woodland on serpentine-derived clay soils.

Range/distribution

This species is known only from Fresno and Tulare counties. It grows on Bureau of Reclamation Land near Pine Flat Reservoir.

Photo: © Rosalie Faubion

References

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Photos

