

Part IV. Plant Assessment Form

For use with “Criteria for Categorizing Invasive Non-Native Plants that Threaten Wildlands”

by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council and the Southwest Vegetation Management Association

Table 1. Species and Evaluator Information

Species name (Latin binomial):	Hypochaeris radicata
Synonyms:	enter text here
Common names:	Common cats-ear; rough cat’s-ear, false dandelion
Evaluation date (mm/dd/yy):	7-30-2003
Evaluator #1 Name/Title:	Peter J. Warner
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Evaluator #2 Name/Title:	enter text here
Affiliation:	enter text here
Phone numbers:	enter text here
Email address:	enter text here
Address:	enter text here

Section below for list committee use—please leave blank

List committee members:	Jake Sigg, Peter Warner, Joe DiTomaso, Doug Johnson, Brianna Richardson
Committee review date:	8-1-2003
List date:	enter text here
Re-evaluation date(s):	enter text here

Table 2. Criteria, Section, and Overall Scores

1.1	Impact on abiotic ecosystem processes	U	None
1.2	Impact on plant community	B	observational
1.3	Impact on higher trophic levels	C	Other published material
1.4	Impact on genetic integrity	D	Other published material

“Impact”
Enter four characters from Q1.1-1.4 below:
UBCD
Use matrix determine the score; enter below:
C

2.1	Role of anthropogenic and natural disturbance	B 2	Other published material
2.2	Local rate of spread with no management	A 3	observational
2.3	Recent trend in total area infested within state	C 1	observational
2.4	Innate reproductive potential	A 3	Other published material
2.5	Potential for human-caused dispersal	B 2	observational
2.6	Potential for natural long-distance dispersal	A 3	observational
2.7	Other regions invaded	C 1	Other published material

“Invasiveness”
For questions at left, recall that an A gets 3 points, a B gets 2, a C gets 1, and a D or U gets=0. Enter the sum total of all points for Q2.1-2.7 below:
15
Use matrix to determine score and enter below:
B

“Plant Score”
Using matrix, determine the Overall Score and Alert Status from the three section scores and enter them below:
Medium

3.1	Ecological amplitude	A	observational
3.2	Distribution	A	observational

“Distribution”
Use matrix to determine the score; enter below:
A

Table 3. Documentation

Question 1.1 Impact on abiotic ecosystem processes
Identify ecosystem processes impacted: None known
Rationale: No basic research on ecology discovered
Sources of information: enter text here
Question 1.2 Impact on plant community composition, structure, and interactions
Identify type of impact or alteration: displacement of native species; alteration of community composition (especially coastal terrace prairie)
Rationale: based on personal observations
Sources of information: Peter Warner, Jake Sigg, Joe DiTomaso
Question 1.3 Impact on higher trophic levels
Identify type of impact or alteration: uncertain impacts on wildlife; reportedly the cause of Australian stringhalt in horses
Rationale: inference from impact on domestic mammalian herbivores that plant could harm native mammals
Sources of information: Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board website
Question 1.4 Impact on genetic integrity
Identify impacts: None known or documented
Rationale: No congeners native to California
Sources of information: Hickman, et al. 1993. The Jepson Manual: Higher Vascular Plants of California
Question 2.1 Role of anthropogenic and natural disturbance in establishment
Describe role of disturbance: invades sites relatively undisturbed by human activity, but more invasive and prevalent on disturbed sites, such as grazed or burned lands, especially those in milder coastal areas
Rationale: some written information; personal observations; inference from extensive range in North America
Sources of information: Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board; DiTomaso, J ; U. S. Dept. of

Agriculture website; Peter Warner (personal observation)
Question 2.2 Local rate of spread with no management
Describe rate of spread: will occupy available open soil; not as invasive in intact ecosystems; appears to respond to either soil disturbance or enhanced nitrogen levels
Rationale: written reports; personal observations
Sources of information: Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board; DiTomaso, J; Peter Warner (personal observation) Jake Sigg
Question 2.3 Recent trend in total area infested within state
Describe trend: stable
Rationale: long-established in CA and elsewhere in North America – inferred that range is unlikely to expand beyond previously invaded habitat
Sources of information: Peter Warner (personal observation)
Question 2.4 Innate reproductive potential
Describe key reproductive characteristics: iteroparous perennial – Asteraceae; dispersal by seed (achene w/pappus)
Rationale: written material; floral characteristics
Sources of information: DiTomaso, J _____; Hickman, et al. (1993)
Question 2.5 Potential for human-caused dispersal
Identify dispersal mechanisms: seed (attached to clothing)
Rationale: personal experience and observations
Sources of information: Peter Warner
Question 2.6 Potential for natural long-distance dispersal
Identify dispersal mechanisms: seed attached to fur; wind-borne achenes w/pappus
Rationale: written information; personal observations

Sources of information: DiTomaso, J _____.; P. Warner
Question 2.7 Other regions invaded
Identify other regions: Pacific Northwest, northeastern, southeastern U. S.; British Isles
Rationale: based on distributional information from websites, published flora
Sources of information: U. S. Dept. of Agriculture website; Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
Question 3.1 Ecological amplitude
Describe ecological amplitude, identifying date of source information and approximate date of introduction to the state, if known: widespread in many ecological types, especially cismontane CA
Rationale: based on personal observations, flora of various areas
Sources of information: Hickman, et al.; USDA website; Peter Warner (personal observations)
Question 3.2 Distribution
Describe distribution: widespread and abundant in coastal terrace prairie and coastal bluff scrub, usually one of the more dominant species
Rationale: personal observations, unpublished data from wetlands delineations on Sonoma and Mendocino coasts, restoration projects at GGNRA
Sources of information: Peter Warner (personal observation; unpublished data

Worksheet A

Complete this worksheet to answer Question 2.4.

Reaches reproductive maturity in 2 years or less	Yes
Dense infestations produce >1,000 viable seed per square meter	Yes
Populations of this species produce seeds every year.	Yes
Seed production sustained over 3 or more months within a population annually	Yes
Seeds remain viable in soil for three or more years	No
Viable seed produced with <i>both</i> self-pollination and cross-pollination	Unknown
Has quickly spreading vegetative structures (rhizomes, roots, etc.) that may root at nodes	No
Fragments easily and fragments can become established elsewhere	No
Resprouts readily when cut, grazed, or burned	Yes

	6 pts 1 unknown
	A (6+ pts)
Note any related traits: enter text here	

Worksheet C - California Ecological Types

Major Ecological Types	Minor Ecological Types	Code
Marine Systems	marine systems	score
Freshwater and Estuarine Aquatic Systems	lakes, ponds, reservoirs	score
	rivers, streams, canals	score
	estuaries	score
Dunes	coastal	B
	desert	score
	interior	score
Scrub and Chaparral	coastal bluff scrub	A
	coastal scrub	C
	Sonoran desert scrub	score
	Mojavean desert scrub (incl. Joshua tree woodland)	score
	Great Basin scrub	score
	chenopod scrub	score
	montane dwarf scrub	score
	Upper Sonoran subshrub scrub	score
Grasslands, Vernal Pools, Meadows, and other Herb Communities	coastal prairie	A
	valley and foothill grassland	B
	Great Basin grassland	score
	vernal pool	D
	meadow and seep	D
	alkali playa	score
	pebble plain	score
Bog and Marsh	bog and fen	score
	marsh and swamp	score
Riparian and Bottomland	riparian forest	score
	riparian woodland	C
	riparian scrub (incl. desert washes)	C
Woodland	cismontane woodland	C
	piñon and juniper woodland	score
	Sonoran thorn woodland	score
Forest	broadleaved upland forest	U
	North Coast coniferous forest	C
	closed cone coniferous forest	C
	lower montane coniferous forest	score
	upper montane coniferous forest	score
	subalpine coniferous forest	score
Alpine Habitats	alpine boulder and rock field	score
	alpine dwarf scrub	score

* A. means >50% of type occurrences are invaded; B means >20% to 50%; C. means >5% to 20%; D. means present but ≤5%; U. means unknown (unable to estimate percentage of occurrences invaded).