from the Oakland Hills in Alameda County, 27 km (17 mi) east of San Francisco, all within 1.0 km (0.6 mi) of each other. A fourth population in the Oakland Hills was reported in 1988 (California Department of Fish and Game, Natural Diversity Data Base) but could not be relocated during a search conducted in 1991 (David Bigham, East Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society, in litt., 1991). Population sizes fluctuate greatly; the upper limit to the total numbers of plants reported in recent years is approximately 8,000 plants. The first of the Alameda County populations was discovered in 1980 at the Redwood Regional Park. Because this discovery occurred so long after the original discovery of the plant and because this population was relatively far from the previously known population at the Presidio, it was suggested that this population might not be a natural occurrence. This suggestion gained credence because seed collected from the type location in 1964 had been sown in the East Bay Regional Parks Tilden Botanic Garden and plants had grown there for several years (Roof 1971). Seed collected from plants at the botanic garden had been sown in several sites at the Presidio in 1972 (Roof 1972). It was thought that seed might also have been sown at Redwood Regional Park in Alameda County. However, an electrophoretic comparison of the San Francisco and Alameda populations "strongly suggests that the Oakland Hills population did not originate by seed transfer from San Francisco and it must be regarded as indigenous to its present locality" (Gottlieb and Edwards 1992). C. franciscana is threatened by potential development, roadside maintenance, foot traffic, mowing, competition from alien plants, and shade from native and introduced shrubs and trees.

Cirsium fontinale var. fontinale (fountain thistle) was first described as Cnicus fontinalis (Greene 1886b). In 1892, Greene reassigned the plant to the genus Carduus (Greene 1892). Willis Jepson, in his Flora of Western Middle California (1901), put the taxon in the genus Cirsium. In 1938, John Thomas Howell described a close relative of the fountain thistle, Cirsium fontinale var. obispoense (Chorro Creek bog thistle) (Howell 1938). According to the rules for botanical nomenclature, when a new variety is described in a species not previously divided into infraspecific taxa, a "type" variety is automatically created. In this case, the type variety is C. fontinale var. fontinale.

*Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale* is an herbaceous perennial of the aster family (Asteraceae) with several stout, erect reddish stems 30 to 60 cm (1 to 2 ft) high. The basal leaves are 10 to 20 cm (4 to 8 in) long with spine-tipped lobes; the leaves on the stems are smaller. The flowers are dull white to pinkish, becoming brown with age. The eggshaped, recurved bracts beneath the flower head distinguish *C. fontinale* var. *fontinale* from the most similar thistle in the area, brownie thistle (*C. quercetorum*). The nearest relative of *C. fontinale* var. *fontinale* is *C. fontinale* var. *obispoense*, found further south in San Luis Obispo County.

Cirsium fontinale var. fontinale is restricted to perpetually moist clay openings in riparian or serpentine chaparral. Historically, this plant occurred in both San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, but it is now found in only three locations in San Mateo County. One population of 1,000 to 2,800 plants occurs east of Crystal Springs Reservoir, on both sides of Interstate 280. A second population of 100 to 200 plants occurs 10 km (6 miles) to the south in the "Triangle area," a triangular piece of land west of Edgewood County Park that is bounded by Interstate 280 to the east, Edgewood Road on the north, and Canada Road on the west. A single plant was found in Edgewood County Park in 1987. In 1992, only one plant remained in this location (Susan Sommers, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, California Native Plant Society, pers. comm., 1992). The taxon is threatened by proposed recreational development, competition with alien plant species, garbage dumping, and roadside maintenance.

*Eriophyllum latilobum* (San Mateo woolly sunflower) was first collected by Elmer in 1903. The type specimen was collected by A.A. Heller in 1907. The plant was described by Per Axel Rydberg (1915). *E. latilobum* is believed to have originated as a hybrid between *E. confertiflorum* and *E. lanatum* var. *arachnoideum* (Munz 1959, John Mooring, Santa Clara University, pers. comm., 1992).

Eriophyllum latilobum is a bushy perennial of the aster family (Asteraceae) with leafy stems 30 to 40 cm (12 to 16 in) high. The upper surfaces of the deeply three-cleft leaves are a smooth dark green and the lower surfaces are covered with densely interwoven white hairs. The golden flower heads are borne in loose clusters. E. latilobum differs from E. confertiflorum in having eight ray flowers rather than five, larger flower heads, and a more open inflorescence. E. lanatum var. arachnoideum differs from the other two species in having 13 ray flowers and shallowly cleft leaves.

Eriophyllum latilobum is found in shaded moist sites on steep grassy or sparsely wooded slopes of serpentineinfluenced soil. The single remaining occurrence of E. latilobum consists of a few hundred plants scattered along 4 km (2.5 miles) of Crystal Springs Road in San Mateo County. These subpopulations are probably the fragments of a once-continuous population. E. latilobum has also been reported from southern San Mateo County, on Pescadero Road southwest of La Honda, but this report is most likely erroneous. At least one of the specimens collected at this site (in 1929) is actually E. confertiflorum (Barry Prigge, University of California, Los Angeles herbarium, pers. comm., 1992), and searches in recent years have found only E. confertiflorum (Toni Corelli, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, California Native Plant Society, pers. comm., 1992). The plant is threatened by erosion and soil slippage, road maintenance, garbage dumping, and recreational development.

Henry Nicholas Bolander collected the type specimen of Hesperolinon congestum (Marin dwarf-flax) in 1863 in Marin County, while working on the State Geological Survey. Asa Gray described the new species as Linum congestum, including it in the section Hesperolinon that he described in the same paper (Gray 1865). J.K. Small (1907) established *Hesperolinon* as a distinct genus in 1907. Jepson (1925) treated Hesperolinon as a section of the genus Linum and treated H. congestum as a subspecies of L. californicum. Helen K. Sharsmith (1961) conducted an extensive study of Hesperolinon and concluded that it definitely warrants distinction as a separate genus. She also returned *H. congestum* to the status of a species.

*Hesperolinon congestum* is an herbaceous annual of the flax family (Linaceae) with slender, threadlike stems, 10 to 40 cm (4 to 16 in) tall. The leaves are linear. The flowers are borne in congested clusters; the pedicels are 0.2 to 2 mm (.01 to .08 in) long. The sepals are hairy and the five petals are rose to whitish. The anthers are deep pink to purple; this character helps distinguish H. congestum from H. californicum, found in the same geographic area, which has white to rose anthers, as well as hairless sepals. Two other species that are found in the same region are H. micranthum and H. spergulinum. They differ from H. congestum in having hairless sepals and a long, open inflorescence, with pedicels 2 to 25 mm (.08 to 1 in) long.

*Hesperolinon congestum* is endemic to serpentine soils from Marin County