

New records for rare plants in a Garry oak ecosystem and characterization of their habitats by tabular analysis

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In-depth surveys in 2003 of the small Mill Hill Regional Park near Victoria, BC revealed 130 occurrences at the subpopulation level for rare plants that are on the Red and Blue lists of the BC Conservation Data Centre. Only 32 of these sites were previously on record. Description of the sites included physical habitat data and complete lists of associated species. There were twelve rare species (seven known previously) for which between one and 33 sites were described. The large number of subpopulations offered an opportunity to precisely characterize floristically the habitat of some of these rare species. Species lists and environmental variables were tabulated and subjected to a Braun-Blanquet-style sorting process to identify the most consistent combinations of associates and site factors. It is hoped that this will enable more focused searches for these species elsewhere in the region.