

**Draft key to the *Malacothamnus* (Malvaceae) of  
the Sierra Nevada Range, CA  
by Keir Morse  
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Comments, corrections, and questions welcome at [kmorse@rsabg.org](mailto:kmorse@rsabg.org)

1. Flowers drying open; west side of the Sierras north of Ponderosa, CA - *M. fremontii*

1'. Flowers drying closed; east side of the Sierras and west side of Sierras south of Johnsondale, CA - *M. orbiculatus*

Notes:

- See Calphotos for images of each species
- Some plants along Hwy 190 between Springville and Ponderosa may be hybrids or intermediates between *M. fremontii* and *M. orbiculatus*. Further investigation is needed.



*M. fremontii* flower drying open



*M. orbiculatus* flowers drying closed