



## Annotated Resource List for Parobotanists

Plant Atlas Webpage: [www.sdplantatlas.org](http://www.sdplantatlas.org)  
San Diego Natural History Museum website: [www.sdnhm.org](http://www.sdnhm.org)  
Botany Department: [www.sdnhm.org/research/botany](http://www.sdnhm.org/research/botany)

### Herbarium SD (San Diego Natural History Museum)

619-255-0229

Open by appointment Monday through Thursday, 9:30 to 4:30

This is the best resource available for learning to recognize and identify the plants of the county. The collection can show you what plants look like and where certain plants have been collected in the past. Of course, we expect to find new localities for many of them with this project.

We have a **synoptic collection** (a reference set of one specimen of each species in the county) to help with identifications if you want to learn this skill. In our **main collection**, you can see many specimens of each species, to get a feel for the amount of variation within a species. We have pulled together a set of specimens representing the **special status species** of the County, and have an album of annotated color photographs about these plants. We have a **library** of references, including older floras, treatments of various groups of plants, illustrations, and original descriptions of most of the plants. Parobotanists are also welcome to use our plant **dryers** if needed, and to use our **computers** for data submissions if you don't have a web connection at home. *You are working for us, and our resources are at your disposal.*

We also have in the Plant Atlas office all the **maps** available to help you choose which grid square you would like to sign up for to do your collecting.

### Calflora

[Calflora - Species Information](#)

This nonprofit organization is dedicated to providing information about California plant biodiversity for use in education, research, and conservation. Calflora is an online gateway to information about California's wild plants, and includes habitat and distribution information, plant location observations, and information about plant name changes. You are required to register, and the annual fee for personal users is \$10.00 (or you can register as a guest for free for 30 days).

### CalPhotos

<http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/photos/flora/>

This huge database of photos of California native plants was developed by the UC Berkeley Digital Library Project. One caution – many of the images were contributed by native plant enthusiasts who were not trained as botanists, so there is no guarantee that the plants shown in the photos have been correctly identified. (We have linked this site to the Plant Finder tool on the plant atlas website so you can now search for San Diego County plants in the Checklist and see photos of them from a single site.)

### **California Native Plant Society (CNPS)**

[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) or see the San Diego Chapter website found at [www.cnpssd.org](http://www.cnpssd.org)

Find information about their regular programs held at 7:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month in Balboa Park and for announcements about upcoming field trips. An excellent resource for information about native plants, and native plant gardening.

### **San Diego Mycological Society**

[San Diego Mycological Society](http://San Diego Mycological Society)

This group includes amateurs, enthusiasts, and professionals who are interested in mushrooms. Their regular meetings are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 6:30 pm in Balboa Park.

### **San Diego Horticultural Society**

[www.sdhortsoc.org](http://www.sdhortsoc.org)

The Horticultural Society promotes the enjoyment, art, knowledge and public awareness of horticulture in the San Diego area, while providing the opportunity for education and research. Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month, except June, from 6:30pm - 9:00pm in the Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

### **San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society**

[www.sdcss.com](http://www.sdcss.com)

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, (except June, Sept., and Dec.), at 1:00 PM in Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park in downtown San Diego.

### **California Invasive Plant Council (formerly CalEPPC)**

[www.caleppc.org](http://www.caleppc.org)

Works to protect California wildlands from invasive plants through research, restoration, and education. An excellent resource on non-native plants.

### **California Society for Ecological Restoration**

[www.sercal.org](http://www.sercal.org)

SERCAL is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing about the recovery of damaged California ecosystems. SERCAL organizes conferences, symposia, workshops, field trips and other educational activities dealing with the many different aspects involved in restoration of California native habitats. SERCAL also publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Ecesis*, available to all current members.

### **Southern California Botanists**

[www.socalbot.org](http://www.socalbot.org)

This non-profit organization is devoted to the study, preservation, and conservation of the native plants and plant communities of Southern California. The journal [\*Crossosoma\*](#), published twice a year, carries articles of interest to amateur and professional botanists. The newsletter, [\*Leaflets of the Southern California Botanists\*](#), published bimonthly, contains notices of field trips, symposia, and other events of interest. They hold an excellent annual symposium at the university in Fullerton every October.

## **Nevada Moss Collecting Initiative**

[www.heritage.nv.gov/mosses/collect.htm](http://www.heritage.nv.gov/mosses/collect.htm)

This site for a volunteer-based collecting project similar to the Plant Atlas Project has detailed information about how to collect mosses, liverworts, and lichens. We will be using collecting packets similar to theirs for our project.

## **Herbarium Supply**

[www.herbariumsupply.com](http://www.herbariumsupply.com)

Full catalog of supplies available online for plant collecting and specimen preparation.

## **San Diego Natural History Museum Store**

[www.sdnhm.org/store/index.html](http://www.sdnhm.org/store/index.html)

Located in the lobby of the SDNHM, the Museum Store is an excellent resource for purchasing books and some supplies. **Parabotanists receive a 20% discount** in the store as a “thank you” for being museum volunteers (museum members get a 10% discount).

## **Topozone.com**

[www.topozone.com](http://www.topozone.com)

This site is the resource most of us will be using to get the coordinates of collection localities. Find the topo map of your area and zoom in until you can determine exactly where you collected a plant, place the cursor on the spot and read off the latitude and longitude at the bottom of the screen. If you access this from the plant atlas website (click on “Log in Here” at the bottom of the web page, and select the “Topozone to Atlas Square” link at the top of that page) we have simple customized links for you to use (e.g., you can enter a grid square and it will automatically jump to the map showing that square).

## **Google**

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

This is a great resource to look up information on California plants on the Internet. If CalPhotos doesn't have a photo of the plant that you are looking for, be aware that you can also use Google to search for photos of plants, by selecting the link called “Images” right underneath the Google logo.

## **San Diego Wildflowers – Identification by Visual Characters**

[www.kenbowles.net/sdwildflowers](http://www.kenbowles.net/sdwildflowers)

This website was developed by a local amateur photographer and wildflower enthusiast (Dr. Ken Bowles). Follow his progress as he develops a computerized “multiple entry key” that can help you learn to identify the wildflowers of San Diego County. This online guide to wildflower identification will be a useful tool for people who:

- Want to identify the many interesting wildflowers they see growing in wild places in San Diego County, and
- Lack formal botany education, and/or the needed experience, to rely on formal botanist publications, and
- Want to do as well as possible at identifying the *Family*, *Genus*, and *Species* using only visual information.