

Weed Alerts 2025

and other updates

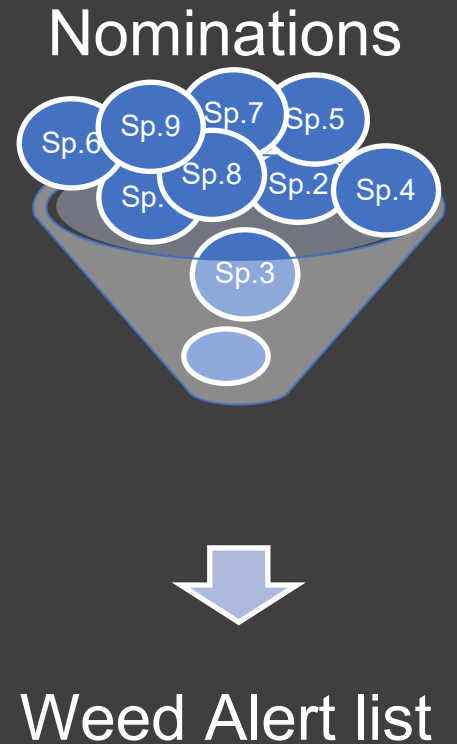
Jutta Burger
Science Program Director
California Invasive Plant Council

Ron Vanderhoff
Species Assessments Cal-IPC, CNPS OC, Calflora

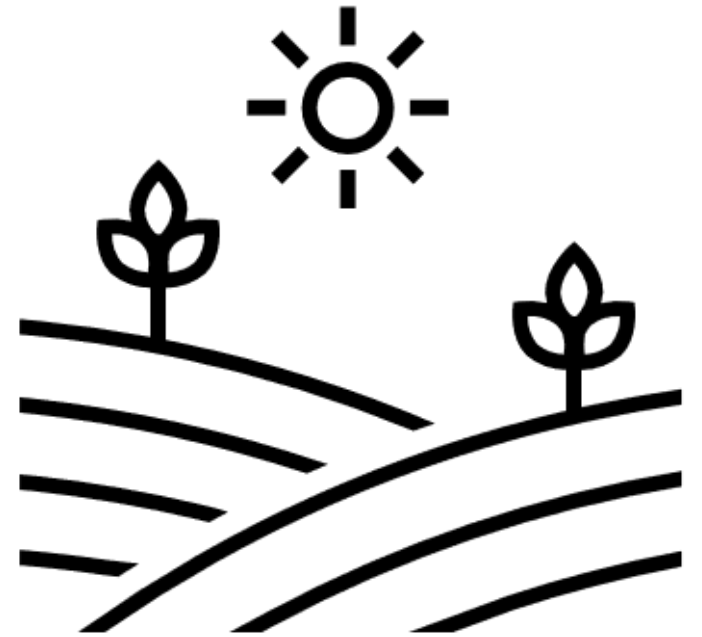


Our selection process:

- We call for and receive nominations from across the state
- Select usually around 6 species in California that are especially notable. Criteria include:
 - First/early state records with questionable reputation
 - Unlisted species that are dramatically expanding
 - Listed “Watch” species that are dramatically expanding with evidence of impact
 - Otherwise listed species that is punching above its weight or dramatically expanding
 - New documentation of potential hybridization with change in behavior



GENERAL CALIFORNIA CONCERN

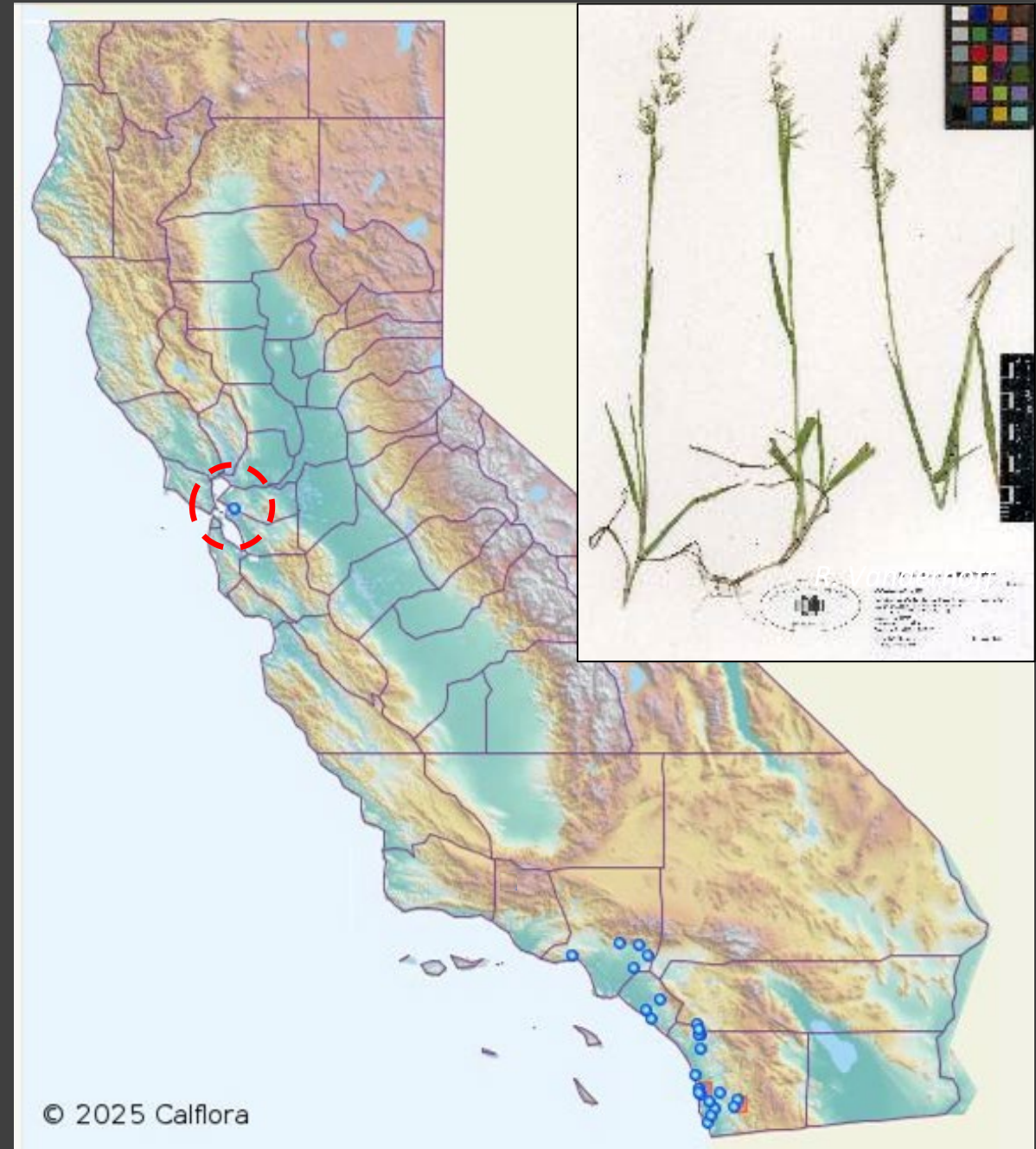


Longflowered veldtgrass

Ehrharta longiflora (Poaceae)

- Native to Southern Africa. California the only naturalized area
- First CA detection 1992, San Diego area
- Established and spreading in the South Coast
- 2025 Alameda, first No Cal detection

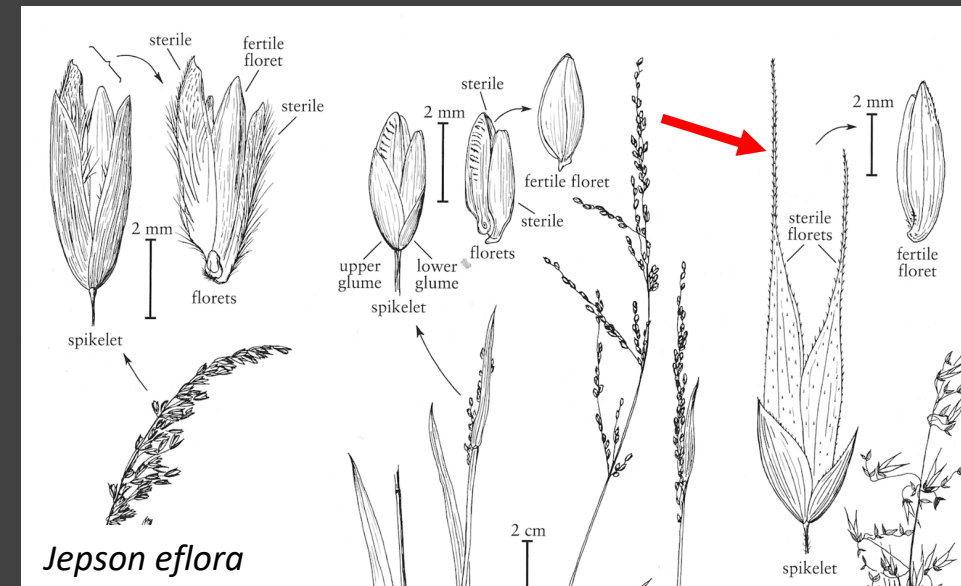
California distribution data from Calflora (including iNaturalist and California Consortium of Herbaria data)



Longflowered veldtgrass

Ehrharta longiflora (Poaceae)

- Primarily annual, spring-summer flowering
- <1,000 m elevation. Grasslands, oak understory
- Awns present, 2-20 mm
- Disturbed sites, usu. sandy or loam soils



Wall fumatory

Fumaria muralis (Papaveraceae)

- Difficult identification. Misreported
- Jepson does not include *muralis* yet
- First CA detection, Cupertino, 2011
- Sepals as long or longer than corolla tube
- Usu. 7-13 flowers per inflorescence

California distribution data from Calflora (including iNaturalist and California Consortium of Herbaria data)



Wall fumatory

Fumaria muralis (*Papaveraceae*)

- Now the most common *Fumaria* sp. in the SF Bay Area
- +- 12 counties
- Abundant on creeks in early spring
- Often in dense mounds
- Even in sidewalk strips
- (Stand by, *F. agraria* and *F. bastardii* also new and expanding. Weed Alerts soon?)

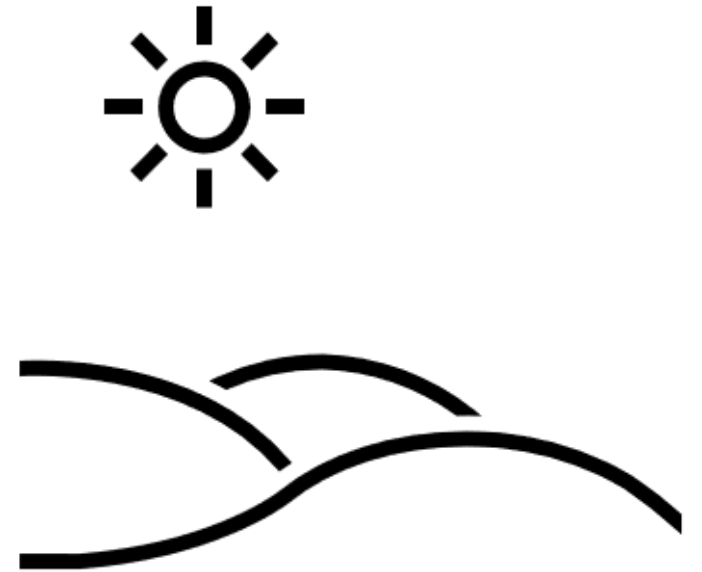
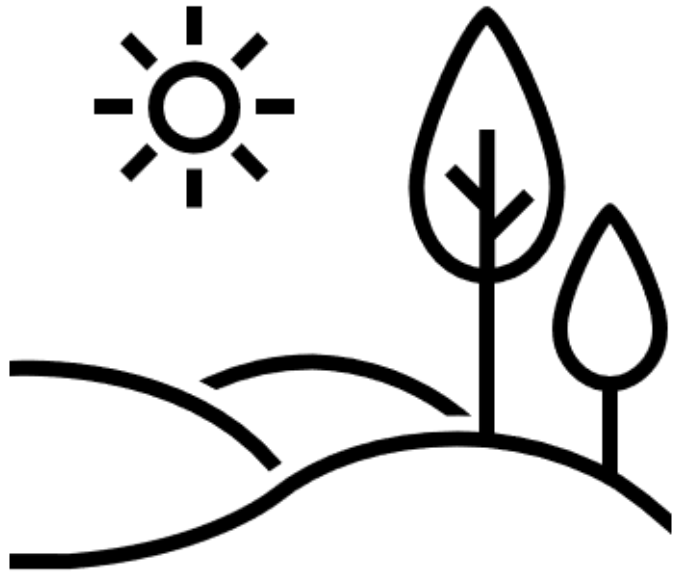


Anne Parsons, Calflora CC BY-NC 4.0



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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA & COASTAL CONCERN

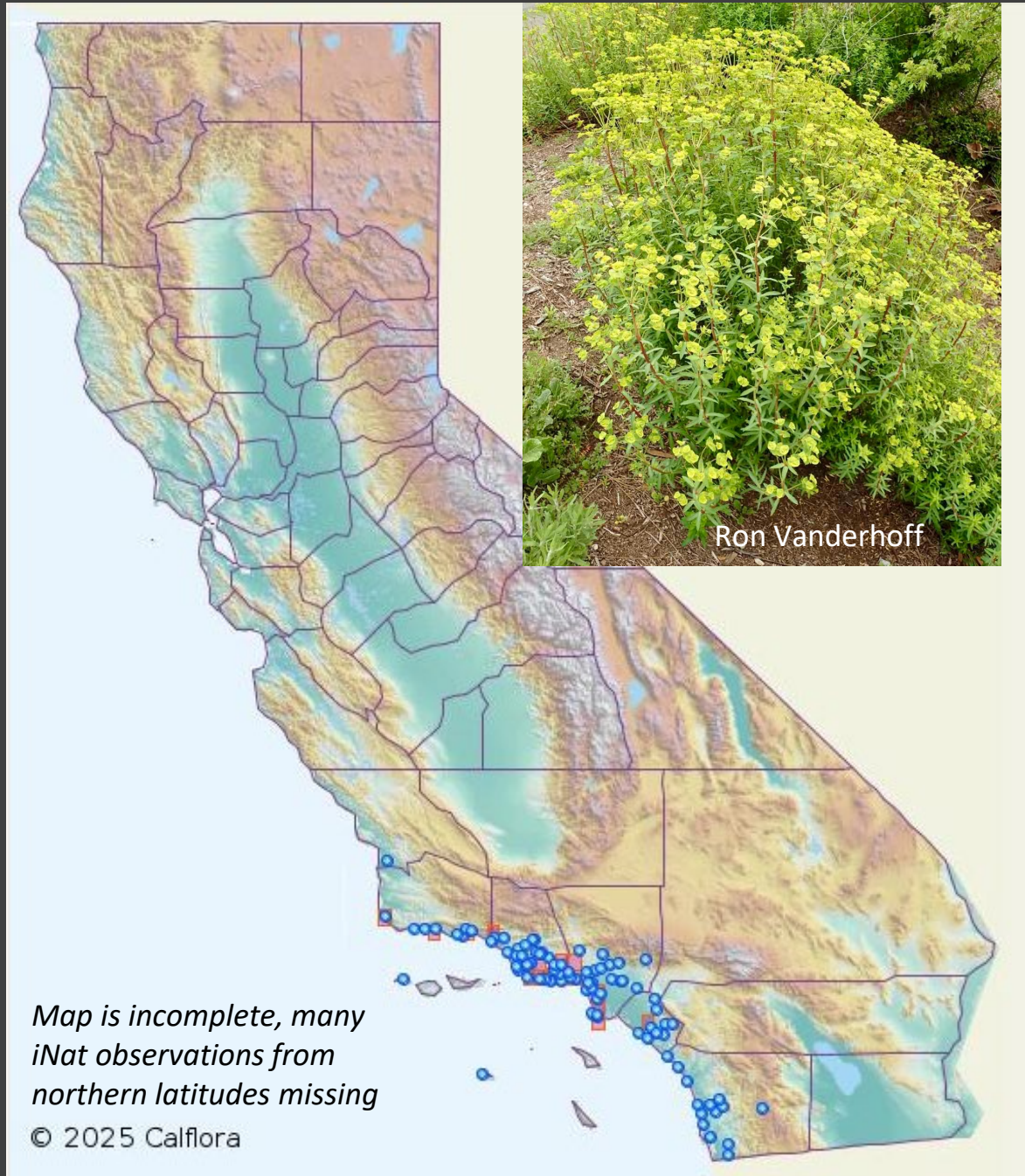


Carnation spurge

Euphorbia terracina (Euphorbiaceae)

- Cal-IPC Alert status
Native to Europe
- Invasive in Australia, naturalized in South Africa, New Zealand and Mexico
- First CA detection 1967, Los Angeles
- Santa Barbara Co. to Mexico

California distribution data from Calflora (including iNaturalist and California Consortium of Herbaria data)



Carnation spurge

Euphorbia terracina (Euphorbiaceae)

- High phenotypic plasticity. Invading intact habitat; also disturbed soils
- Sandy and/or rocky coastal sage scrub, coastal bluff scrub/dunes, seeps, oak woodland, salt marsh, chaparral, grassland
- Annual/perennial, herbaceous
Flowering Feb-Aug +
- Seeds expelled explosively, 3-5 yr viability
- Strong fire follower, quick germination, dense stands
- Allelopathic, inhibiting competition
- Dermal, ocular, ingestion toxicity. PPE needs



Photos Ron Vanderhoff

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONCERN

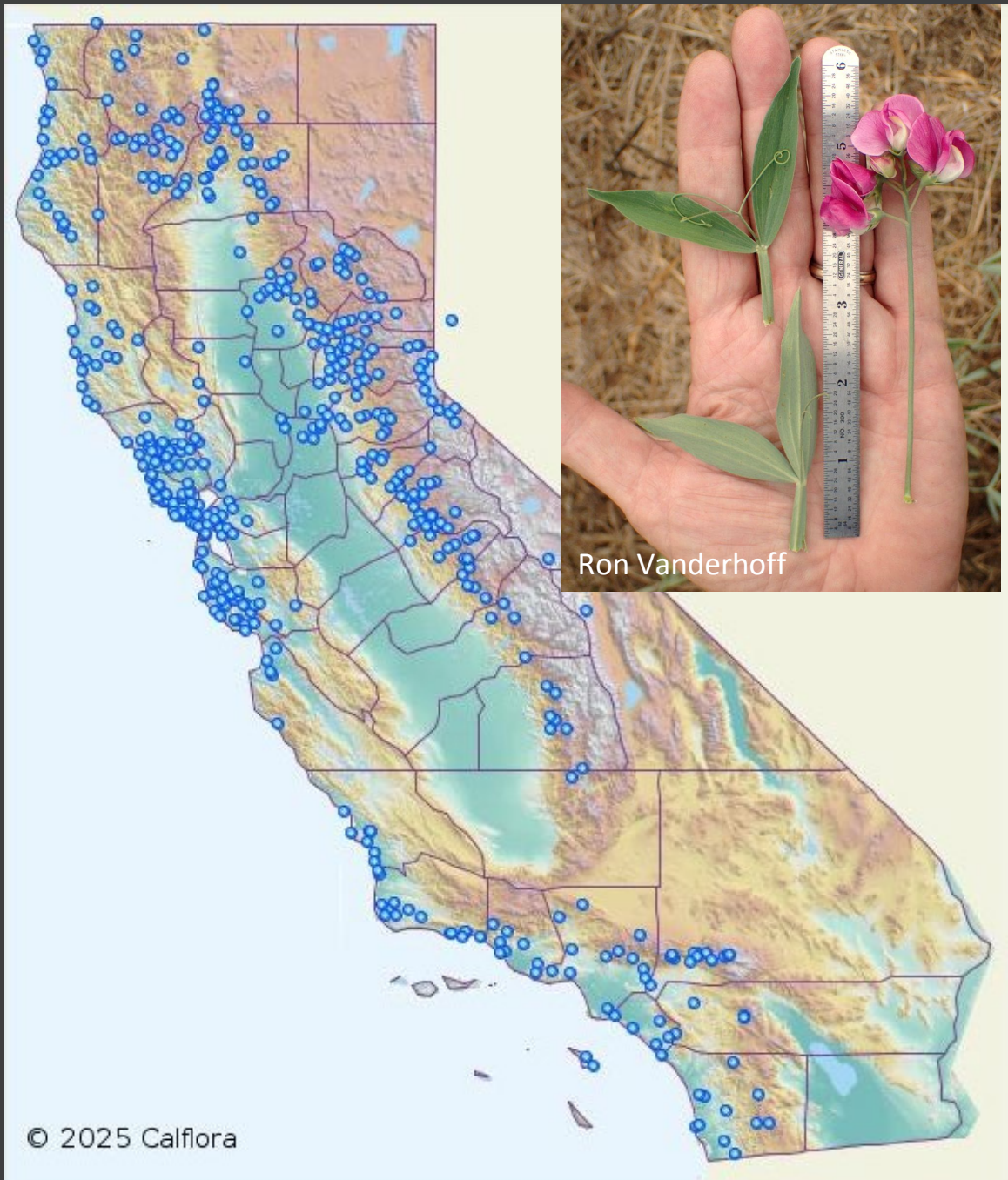


Perennial pea

Lathyrus latifolius (Fabaceae)

- Present in CA since the 1920's
- Native to Mediterranean
- 45 counties, most of California
- Dense, impenetrable patches/ monocultures; Overtops smothers
- Spreading by rhizomes and seed
- Seeds explosively ejected up to 30 feet
- Toxic to mammals
- Has been a “Watch” species since 2020
- Observed spreading more recently w roadside mowing

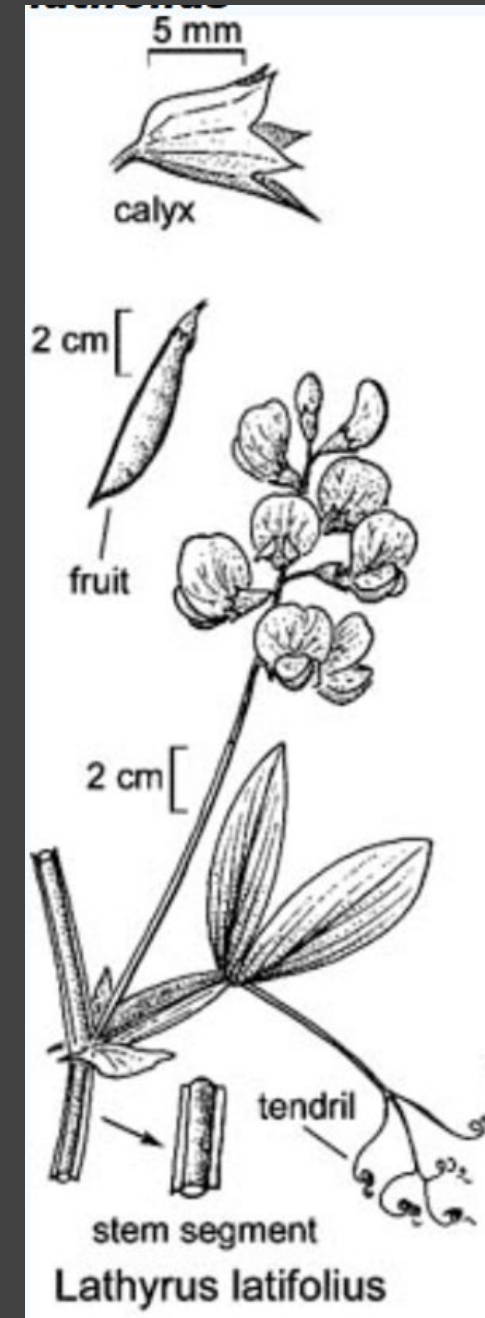
California distribution data from Calflora (including iNaturalist and California Consortium of Herbaria data)



Perennial pea

Lathyrus latifolius (Fabaceae)

- A perennial, scrambling/vining pea
- Pink/purple showy flowers
- No fragrance
- Flowers usu. 5+ per inflorescence
- Hairless (glabrous)
- Winged stems and petioles
- Leaflets in twos
- Tendril from leaf
- Long flowering period spans summer

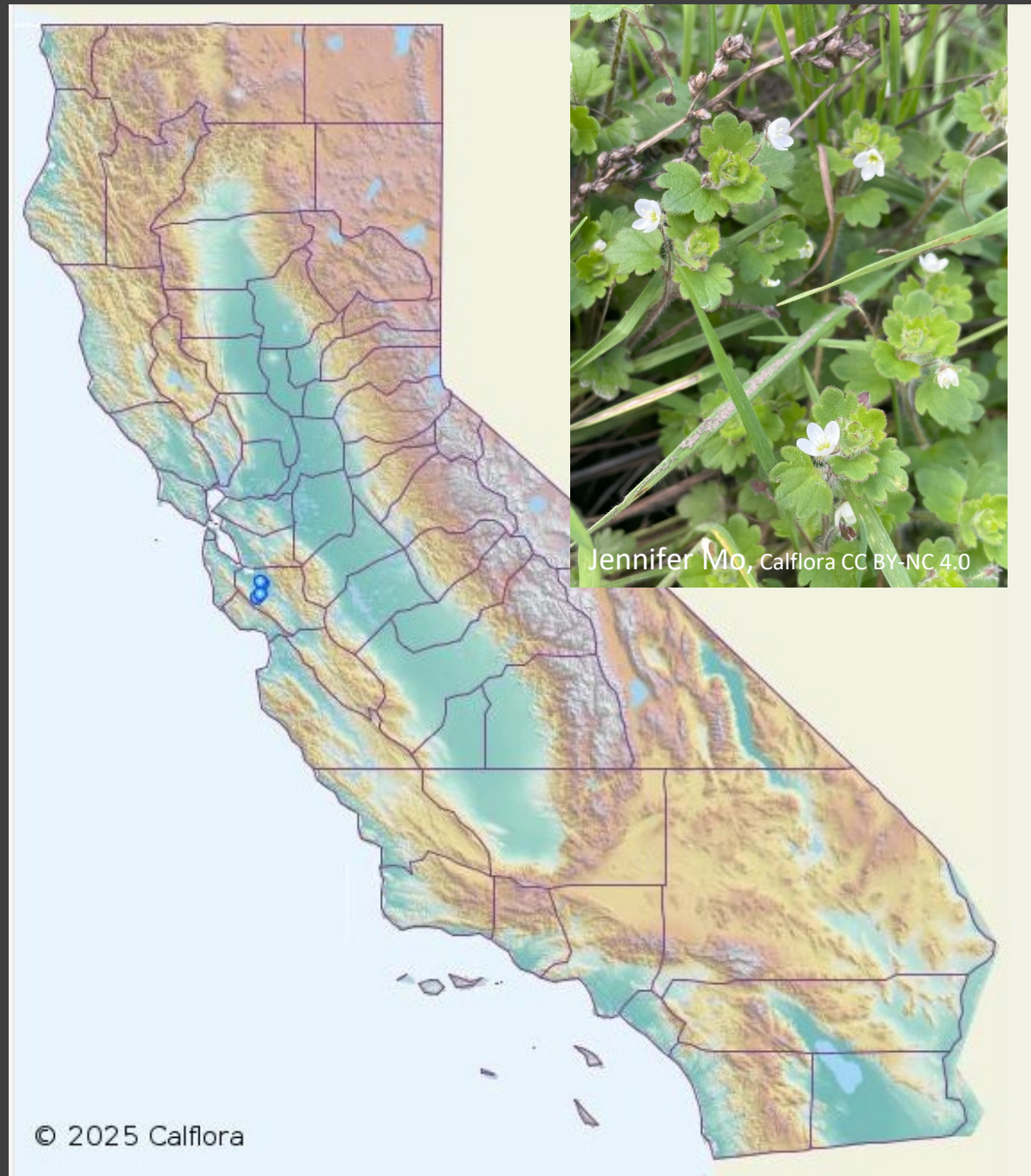


Pale speedwell

Veronica cymbalaria (Plantaginaceae)

- First recorded in California 2021
- Only known as yet from Santa Clara County (San Jose / Los Gatos)
- Native to southern Europe, northern Africa, Near and Middle East
- Established in southeastern U.S.
- Recently also first documented and established in Chile
- Seldom in horticulture but considered an ornamental
- Ground cover; unknown impacts

California distribution data from Calflora (including iNaturalist and California Consortium of Herbaria data)



Pale speedwell

Veronica cymbalaria (Plantaginaceae)

- A spring annual
- 10-30 cm tall; hairy throughout
- Small rounded, lobed leaves with petioles
- Flowers solitary, with long (>12mm) pedicels, white, and four-petaled
- Fruit capsules are 4-lobed and hairy
- Low germination rate (<20%)
- Seeds 1-2/locule



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From Cisternas et al. Bol. Soc. Argent. Bot. 58 (2023)



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Large bindweed

Calystegia sylvatica subsp. *disjuncta*
(Convolvulaceae)

- Perennial vine
- Native to northern Europe
- Introduced to many areas as a garden plant
- Spreads mostly by rhizome fragments
- Overtops and smothers plants
- Hybridizes with *C. sepium*
- Has been expanding along the coast of British Columbia, Washington, Oregon
- Likely under-reported

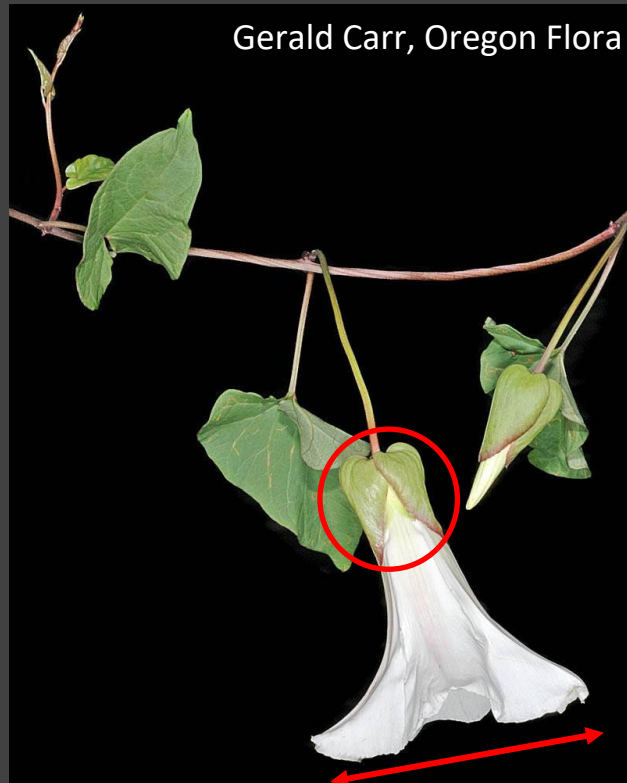
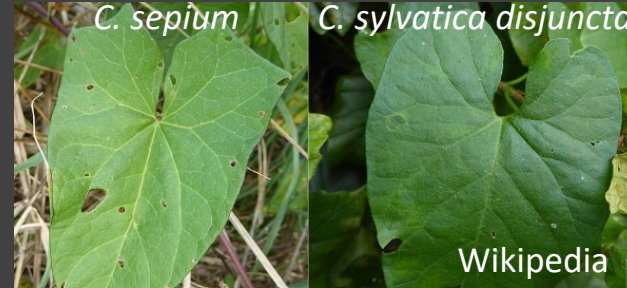
California distribution data from Calflora (including iNaturalist and California Consortium of Herbaria data)



Large bindweed

Calystegia sylvatica subsp. *disjuncta* (Convolvulaceae)

- Flowers large (55-75 mm-wide), white
- Bracts under flowers are overlapping (vs not in *C. sepium*)
- Bracts often have a reddish tinge along edge and are saccate
- Leaf base is V- to U-shaped (rather than strongly angled as in *C. sepium*)
- Leaf more rounded rather than angled, as in *C. sepium*



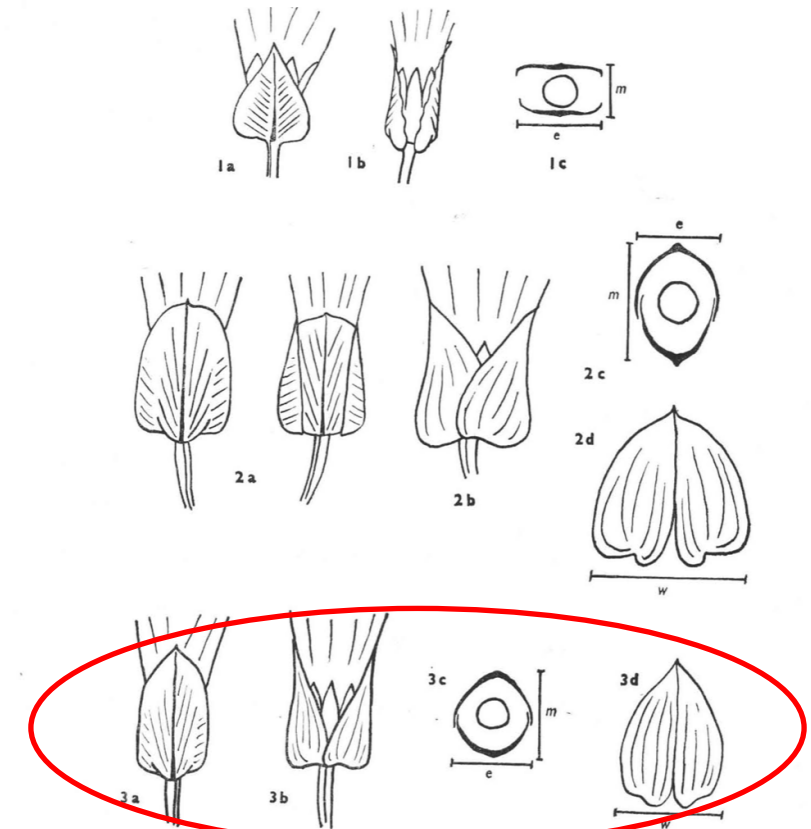
Large bindweed Hybrids

Calystegia x lucana

- Intermediate traits between *C. sylvatica* and *C. sepium*
- Bracteoles are uneven
- Sometime a second flower is produced
- Documented in Great Britain and Washington
- Suggested in Oregon
- Present in California – probably yes!

90

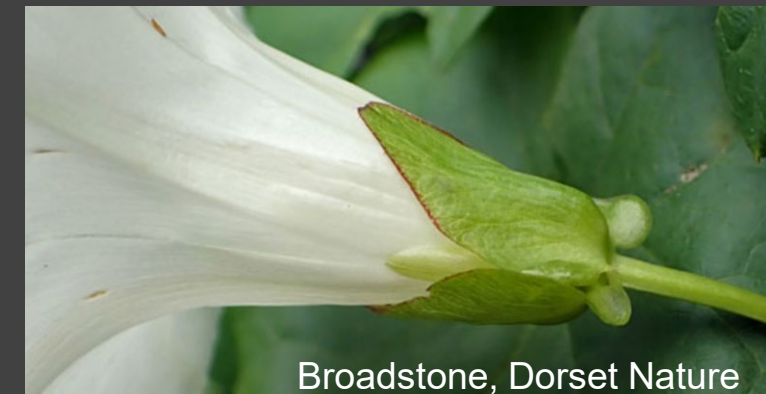
From: C. Stace, *Watsonia* (1961)



Figs. 1-3. Bracteoles of *Calystegia*. *a* & *b*. Two bracteoles from different views. *c*. Diagrammatic cross-section of bracteoles. *d*. Larger bracteole flattened out. Fig. 1. (top) *C. sepium* Fig. 2. (middle) *C. sylvatica*. Fig. 3. (bottom) *C. sepium* × *C. sylvatica*.



Broadstone,
Dorset Nature



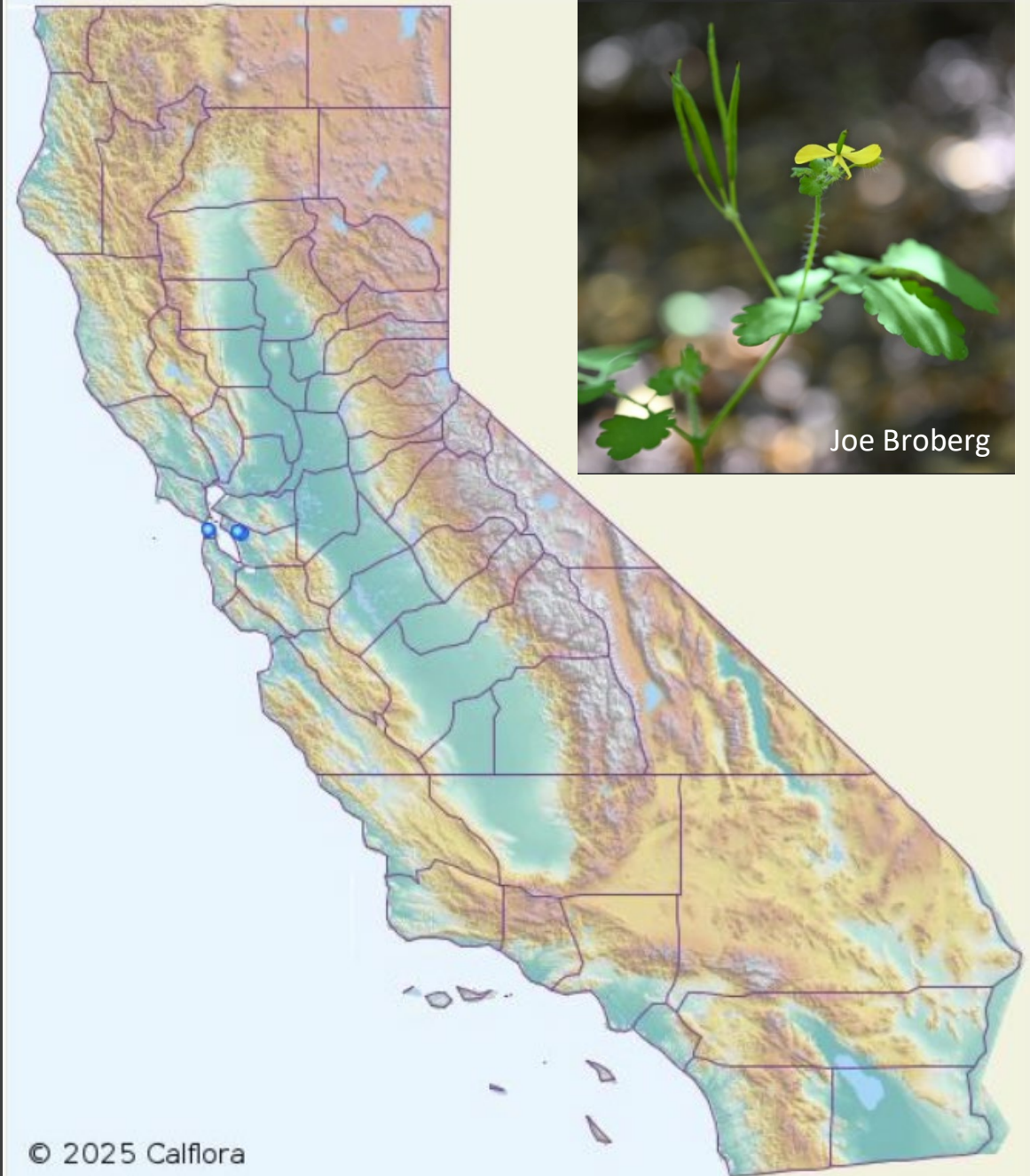
Broadstone, Dorset Nature

Greater celadine

Chelidonium majus (Papaveraceae)

- First reported in California in San Francisco and Alameda Co. 2021 and 2022
- Native to southern Europe, northern Africa, and Asia
- Occurs in moist habitats
- Listed as invasive in Wisconsin, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania
- Used medicinally for various ailments but also causes liver damage

California distribution data from Calflora (including iNaturalist and California Consortium of Herbaria data)



Greater celadine

Chelidonium majus
(*Papaveraceae*)

- Biennial to perennial herb, usually <80cm tall
- Yellow flowers with four circa 1-cm petals
- Flower buds ovoid and hairy
- Leaves pinnately divided, with lobed/crenate edges
- Leaf blades glabrous, green above; hairy and whitish below
- Roots exude a yellow-orange sap when cut



Other Nominations for Weed Alerts 2025

Scientific name	Common name	Reporting	County	Past Weed Alert?
<i>Anthemis cotula</i>	Dog fennel	Miriam Sachs Martin	Santa Clara Co.	
<i>Calicotome villosa</i>	spiny broom	Naomi Fraga	Los Angeles Co.	2018
<i>Lychnis (Silene) coronaria</i>	Rose campion	Leah Gardner	El Dorado Co.	
<i>Maytenus boaria</i>	Mayten	Pamela Beitz	Alameda Co.	2024
<i>Mercurialis ambigua</i>	Spanish mercury	Jennifer Mo	Santa Clara Co.	
<i>Paspalum dilatatum</i>	Dallisgrass	Lauren Quon	Orange Co.?	

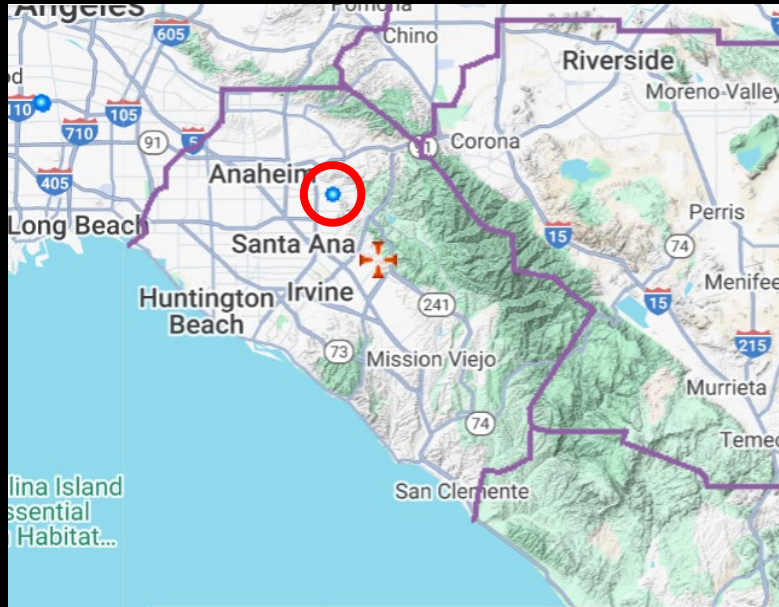
Thank you!

North African Knapweed *Centaurea diluta* (Asteraceae)

2019 Weed Alert - A "Sleeper" species?

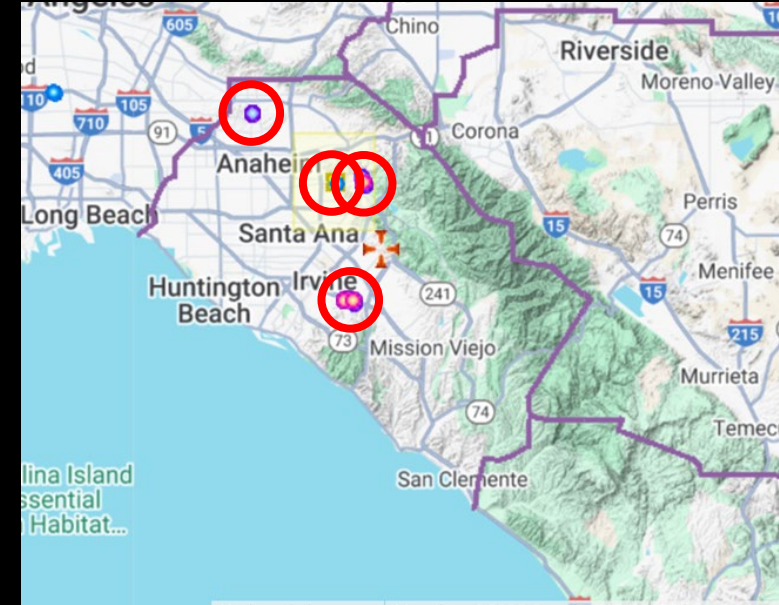
1952-2012
61 years

1 Large
colony
in Orange



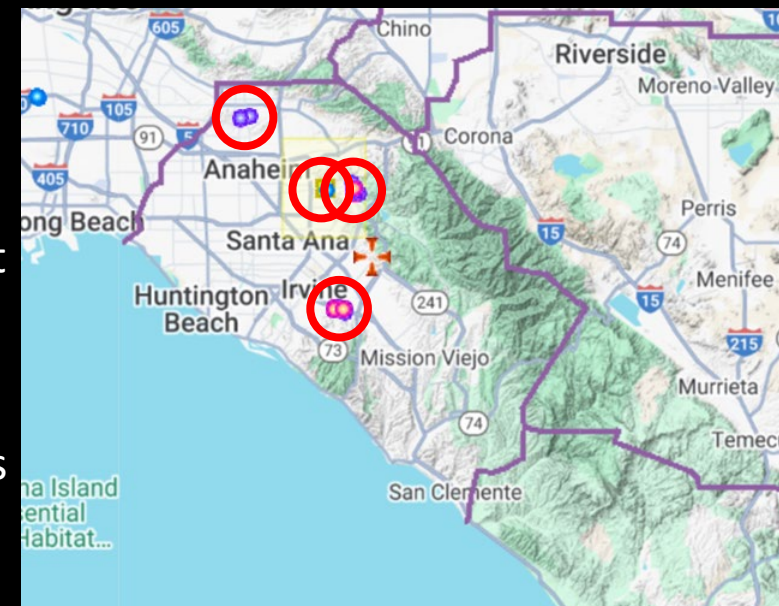
2020
3rd & 4th
colonies

5 mi away

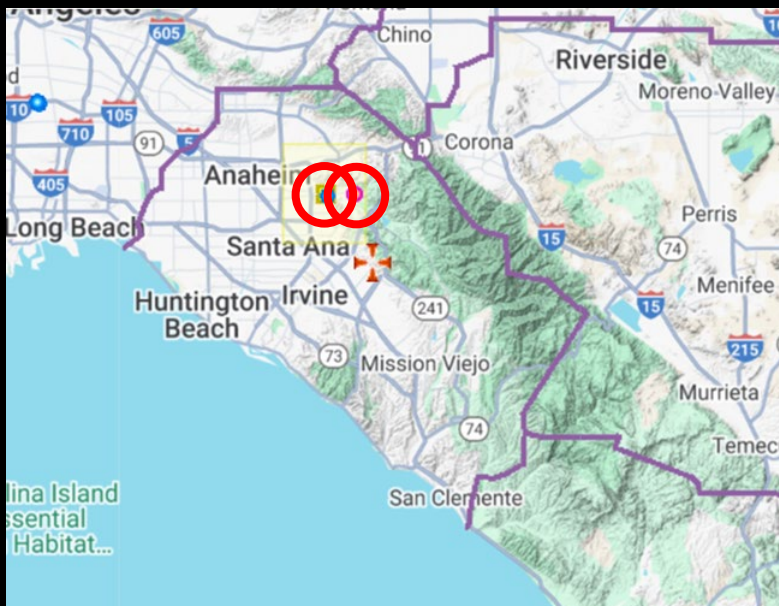


2025
Continued
expansion at
all colonies

190
observations



2015
2nd colony
2 miles east



2025 Species Added to Cal-IPC Inventory

Scientific name	Common name	Cal-IPC Rating	CDFA Rating	Weed Alert?
<i>Eragrostis echinochloidea</i>	African lovegrass	WATCH	-	2020
<i>Nasella tenuissima</i>	Mexican feathergrass	LIMITED	-	-
<i>Senecio angulatus</i>	Creeping groundsel	WATCH	-	2024
<i>Urospermum picroides</i>	Prickly goldenfleece	WATCH	-	2008, 2023

Seven other species were reviewed for their risk of invasiveness in 2024 but with available info did not score highly enough to be included in the inventory. They were: *Bergia capensis*, *Cutandia memphitica*, *Euphorbia bourgeana*, *Iris foetidissima*, *Limonium sinuatum*, *Melaleuca citrina*.

Cal-IPC Species in 2025 Review

Scientific name	Common name	CDFA Rating	Current Cal-IPC status	Weed Alert?
<i>Aristea ecklonii</i>	Blue corn lily	-	-	2024
<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	Herb of grace	-	-	-
<i>Centaurea nigrescens</i>	Tyrol knapweed	-	-	-
<i>Gaura drummondii</i>	Drummond's gaura	-	-	-
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peruvian peppertree	-	LIMITED	Reassessment
<i>Sparaxis tricolor</i>	Harlequin flower	-	-	-
<i>Caulerpa prolifera</i>	Caulerpa	+	-	2021
<i>Centaurea Iberica</i>	Iberian thistle	*	-	-
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Yellow floating heart	A*	-	2022
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water lettuce	-	-	2019
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Winter vetch	-	-	-
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Santa Maria feverfew	A*	WATCH	2012, 2016, 2018

+Listed as
"quarantine " by
CDFW

*CDFA
"noxious" status

NEW AND DISTURBING SPECIES TO REPORT?

Contact us!!!

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Ron Vanderhoff invasives@occnps.org

Your local Ag. Commissioner

Your local WMA

Send close-ups, whole-plant and habitat photos

Map on Calflora or iNaturalist

Submit specimen to your local herbarium and Ag. Commissioner

GENERAL CALIFORNIA CONCERN

