

Floristics of Ventura County Flora

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Limber Pine on Mount Pinos



Eriogonum kennekei var. *alpinum*



View of Mount Pinos from Pine Mountain Ridge



Pinus lambertiana cone



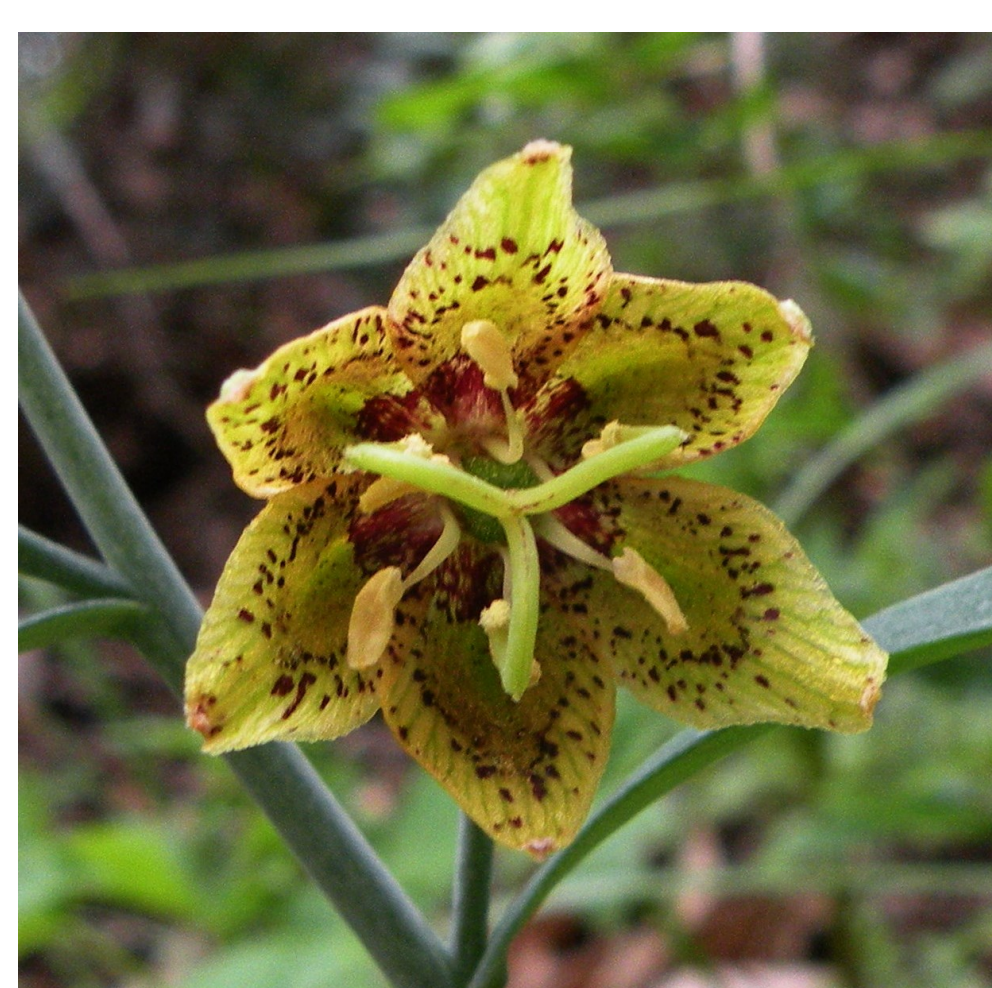
Pinus ponderosa and *Artemisia tridentata* on Dry Lakes Ridge



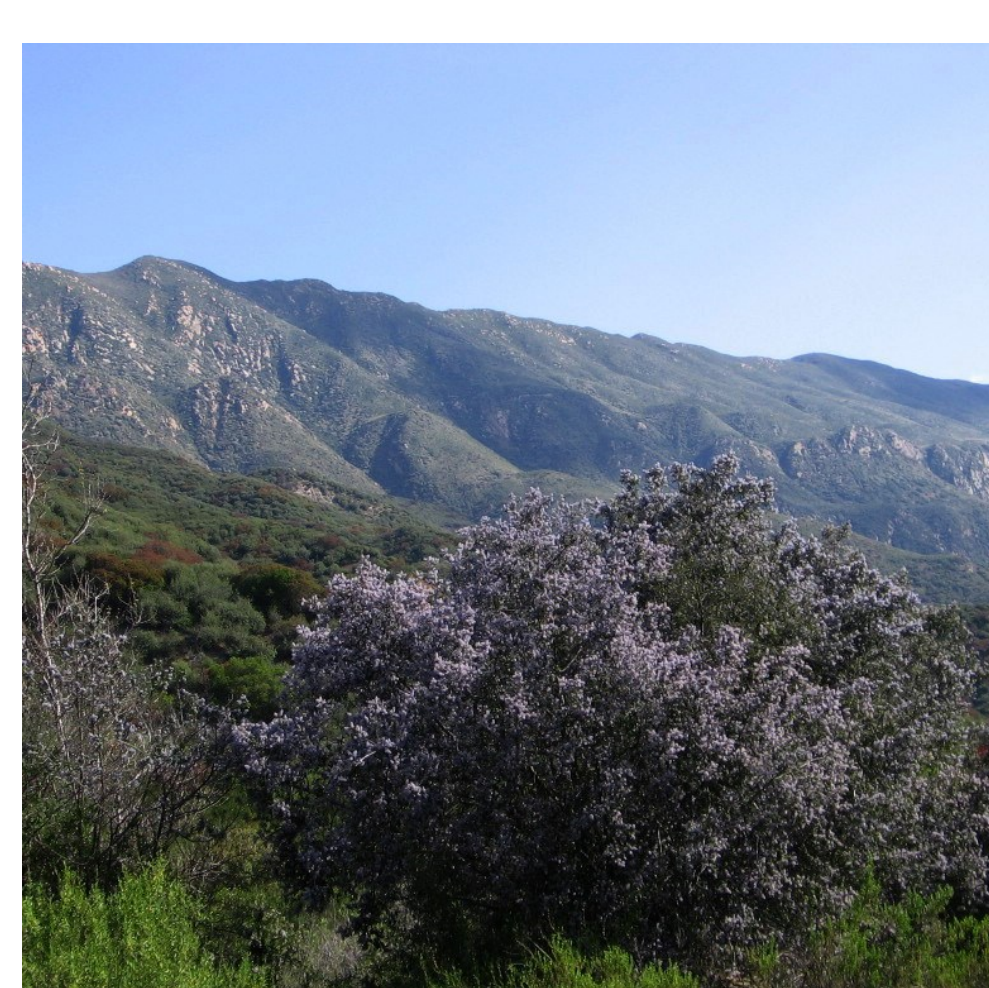
Hosackia crassifolia var. *crassifolia* on Dry Lakes Ridge



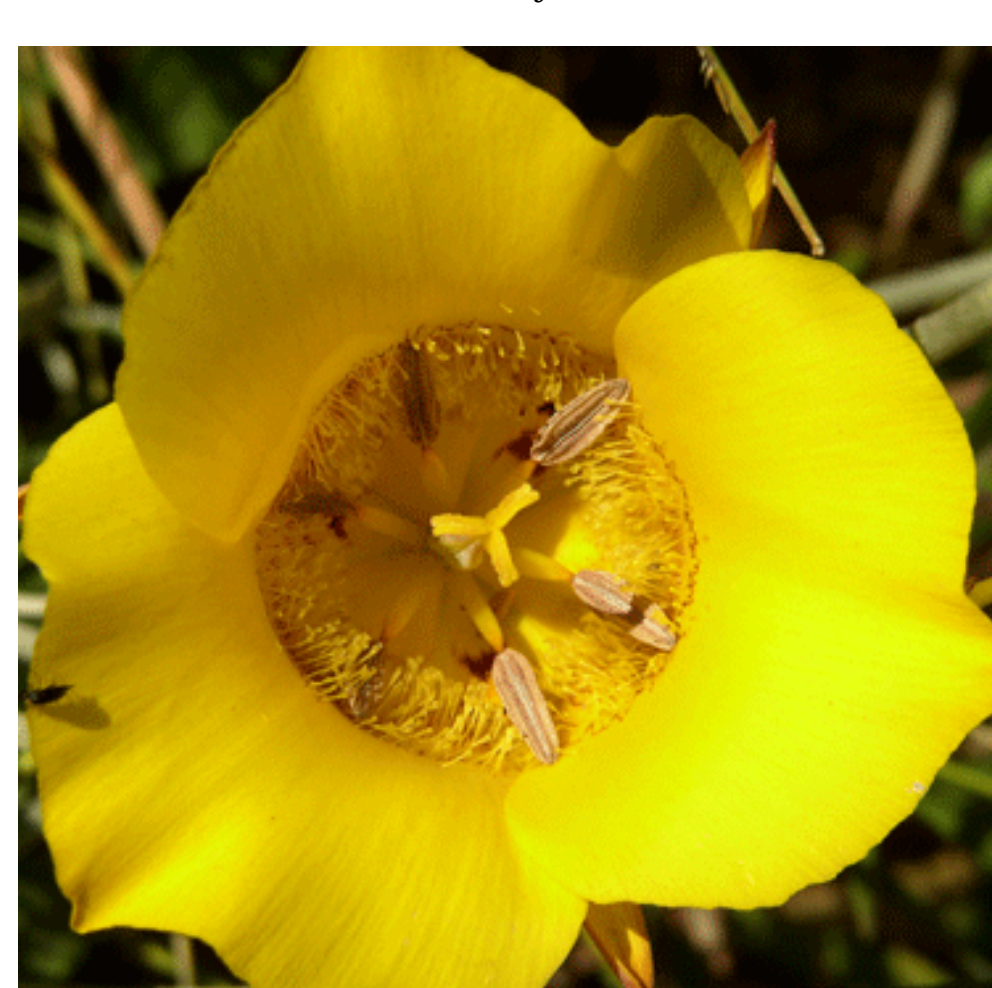
Alnus rhombifolia riparian habitat in Santa Paula Canyon



Fritillaria ojaiensis



Ceanothus oliganthus on S slope of Dry Lakes Ridge



Calochortus clavatus var. *clavatus*

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY

Ventura County is a floristic **biodiversity hotspot** within the California Floristic Province. Although Ventura County represents only 1 percent of the landmass of California, it supports 25 percent of the known flora of the state.

Ventura County is known to support 2,711 native and naturalized taxa (including taxa expected to be present), of which 2,447 have been vouchered or observed. Of the 2,447 recorded taxa, 1,828 are native (74.7%), and the rest naturalized. The Ventura County flora is comprised of 151 families and 726 genera. The three largest families (with the highest number of representatives) are the Asteraceae, Poaceae, and Fabaceae, collectively representing 30.2% of the flora. The twenty-five largest families represent nearly 75% of the flora. Nearly half the taxa are represented by 10 or fewer populations. About 9% of the taxa are common with over 30 populations in the county.

BACKGROUND

The author has been studying and researching the vascular plant flora of Ventura County, California since the late 1970s and has nearly completed a manual/flora of the county. That research has included examination of historic and recent collections made by others and extensive collecting and documenting the flora. Over time, the numbers continually change, generally with more taxa being discovered as either native or naturalized within the county. Visit www.venturaflora.com for lots of interesting facts and information about the Ventura County flora.

STATISTICS

Ventura County

151
726
2,711 (1,828 native/619 naturalized)
74.7
25.3
Asteraceae, Poaceae, Fabaceae (30.2% of the flora)
75% of the flora

230 (9.4%), of which 45 are nonnative taxa
~50% (10 or fewer populations)
9

(*Dudleya parva*, *D. verityi*, *Eriogonum crocatum*, *E. grande* var. *timorum*, *Lupinus paynei*, *Malacothrix foliosa* ssp. *crispifolia*, *M. f.* ssp. *polycephala*, *M. junakii*, *Navarretia ojaiensis*)

39%
1.4

Category

Number of **families** represented
Number of **genera**
Number of **taxa**
Percent **native**
Percent **naturalized**
Largest **families**
Twenty-five of the largest families represent

Common taxa (>30 populations)

Rare taxa
Number of **Endemic taxa**

Percentage of California flora
Taxa per square mile

California

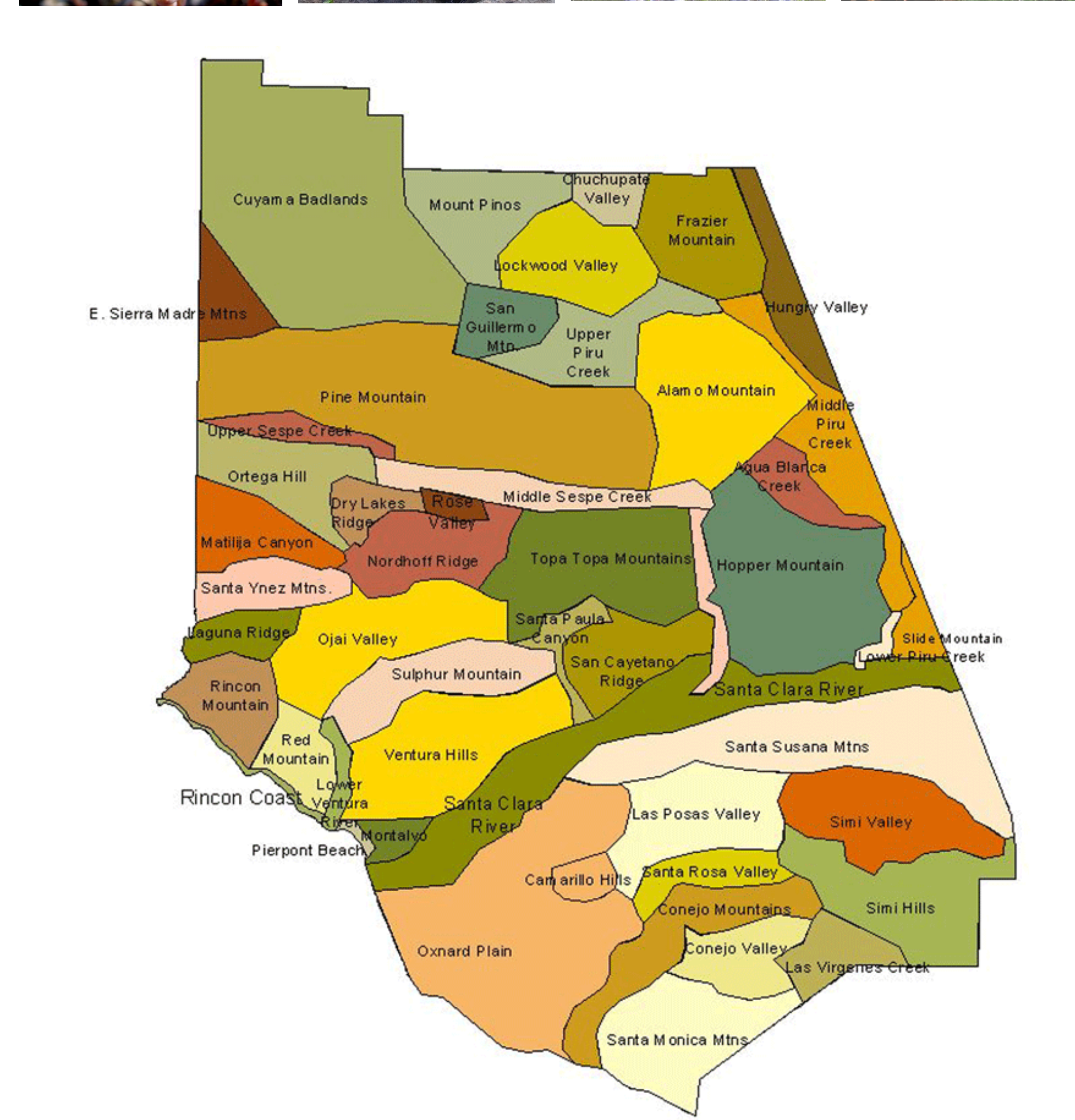
189
878 native
6,272 (5,046 native species)
~75%
~25%
Asteraceae, Poaceae, Fabaceae
? but likely similar to V.C.

~400 taxa

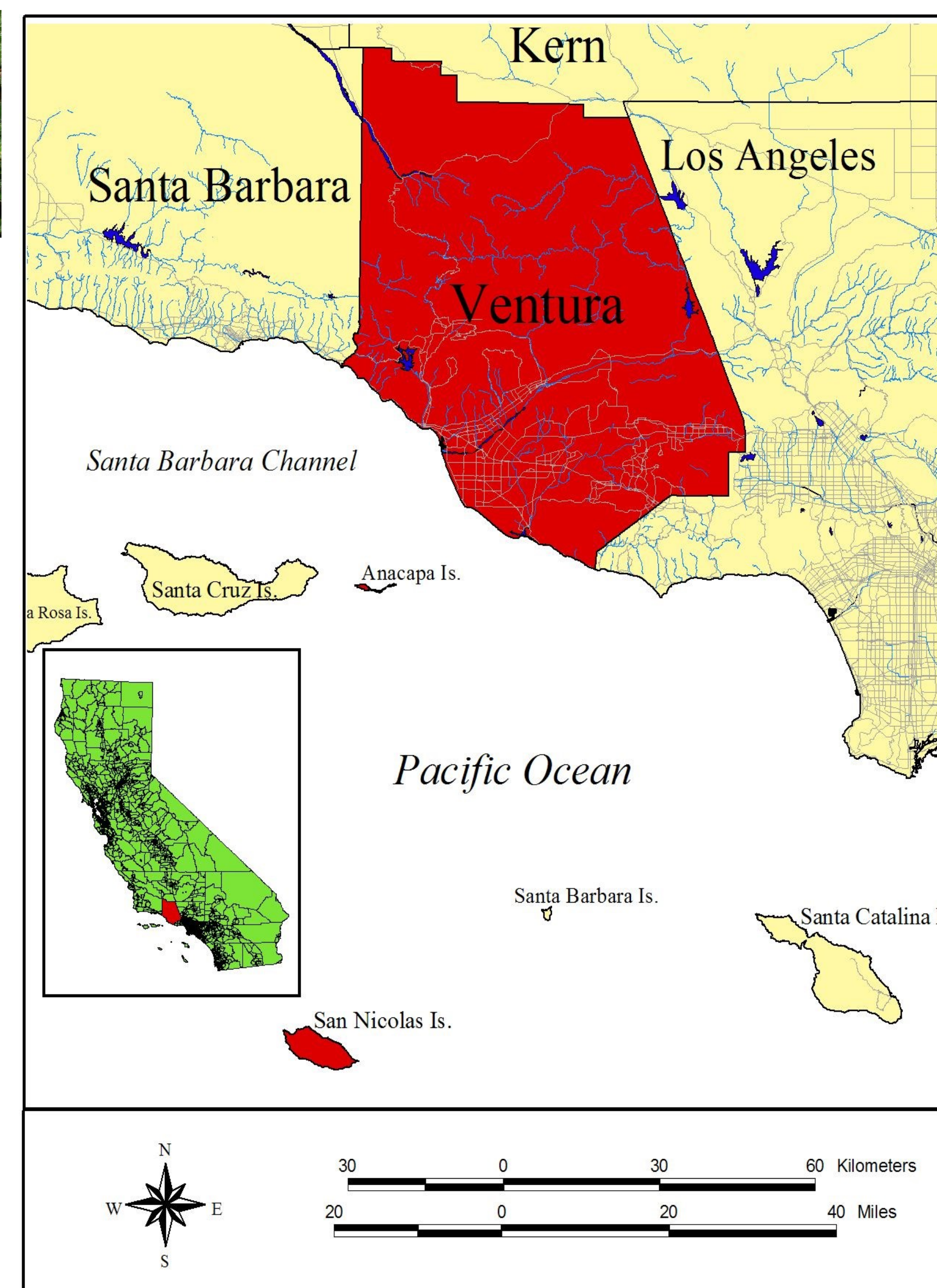
2,343 (CNPS listed)
2,153 (34%)

100%
0.038

Asteraceae, Poaceae, Fabaceae, Boraginaceae, Polygonaceae, Onagraceae, Chenopodiaceae, Cyperaceae, Plantaginaceae, Rosaceae, Lamiaceae, Apiaceae, Orobanchaceae, Solanaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Convolvulaceae, Ranunculaceae, Malvaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Rhamnaceae, Juncaceae, Phymaceae, and Alliaceae for Ventura County



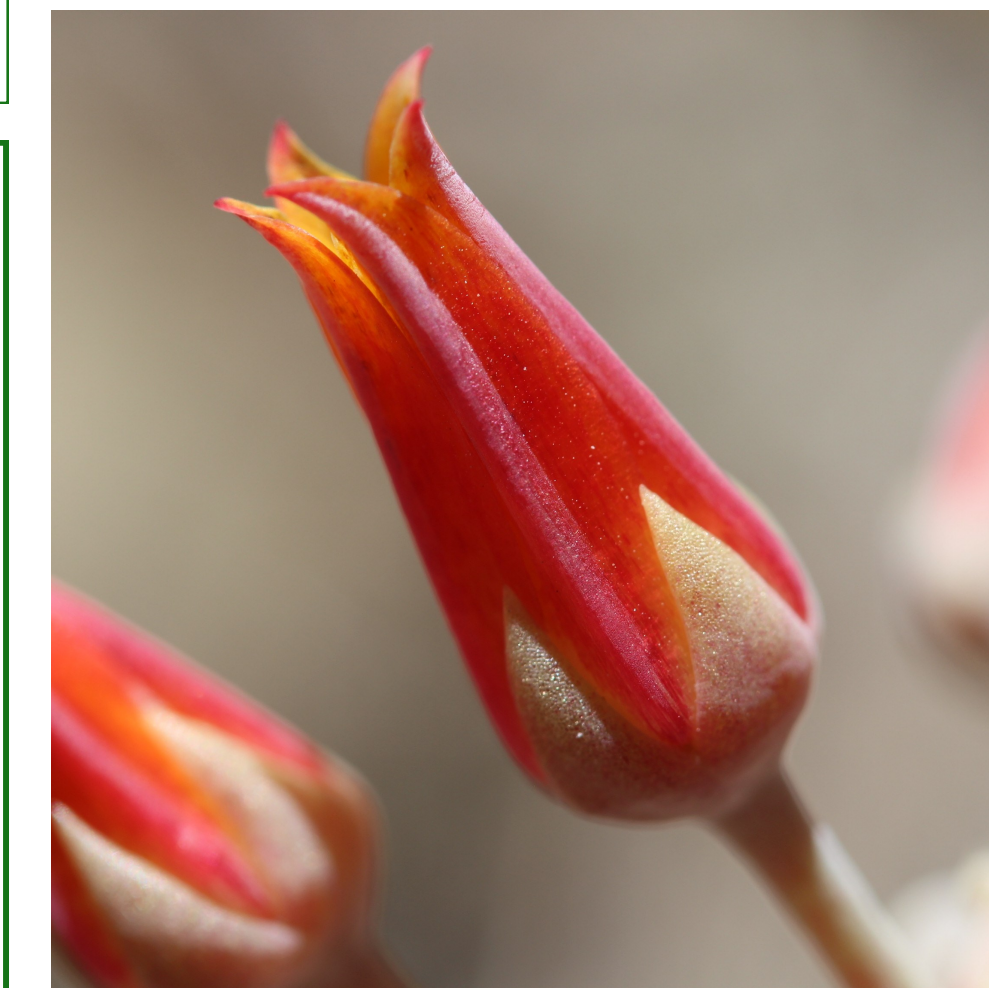
Map of Bioregions of Ventura County



Allium howellii var. *clokeyi*



Upper Cuyama River dominated by Pinyon-Juniper Woodland



Dudleya lanceolata



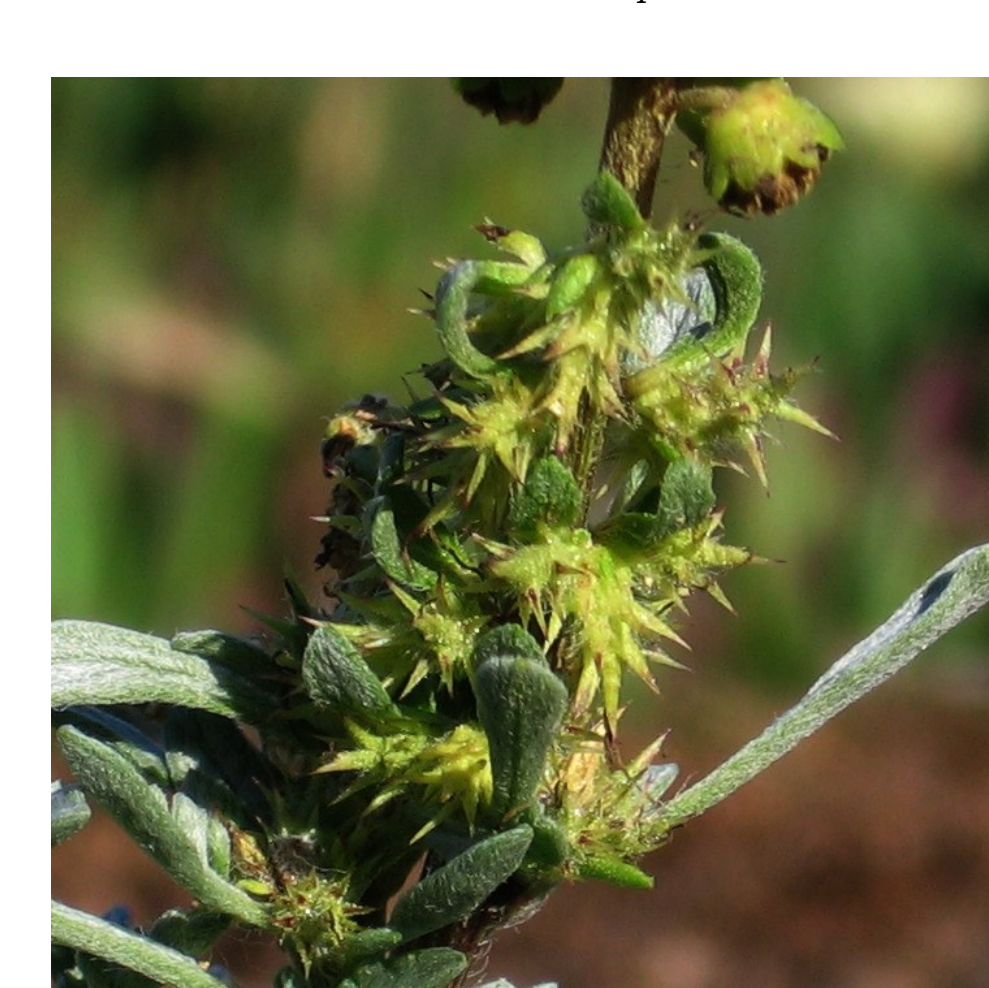
Acer macrophyllum fall color



Acaoutia macrocephala



Lasthenia gracilis and *Artemisia tridentata*



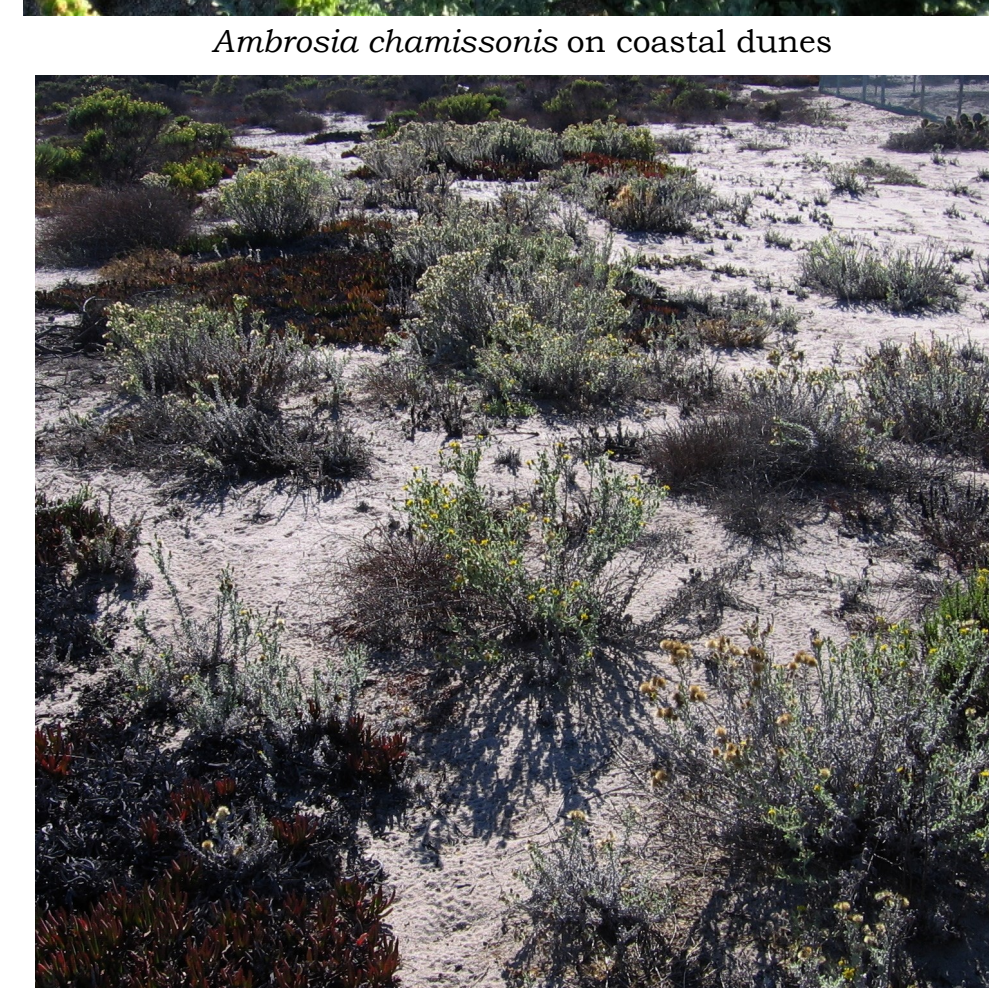
Ambrosia chamissonis fruits



Ambrosia chamissonis on coastal dunes



Astragalus pycnocephalus var. *lanosissimus* flowers



Coastal Dune Scrub habitat