

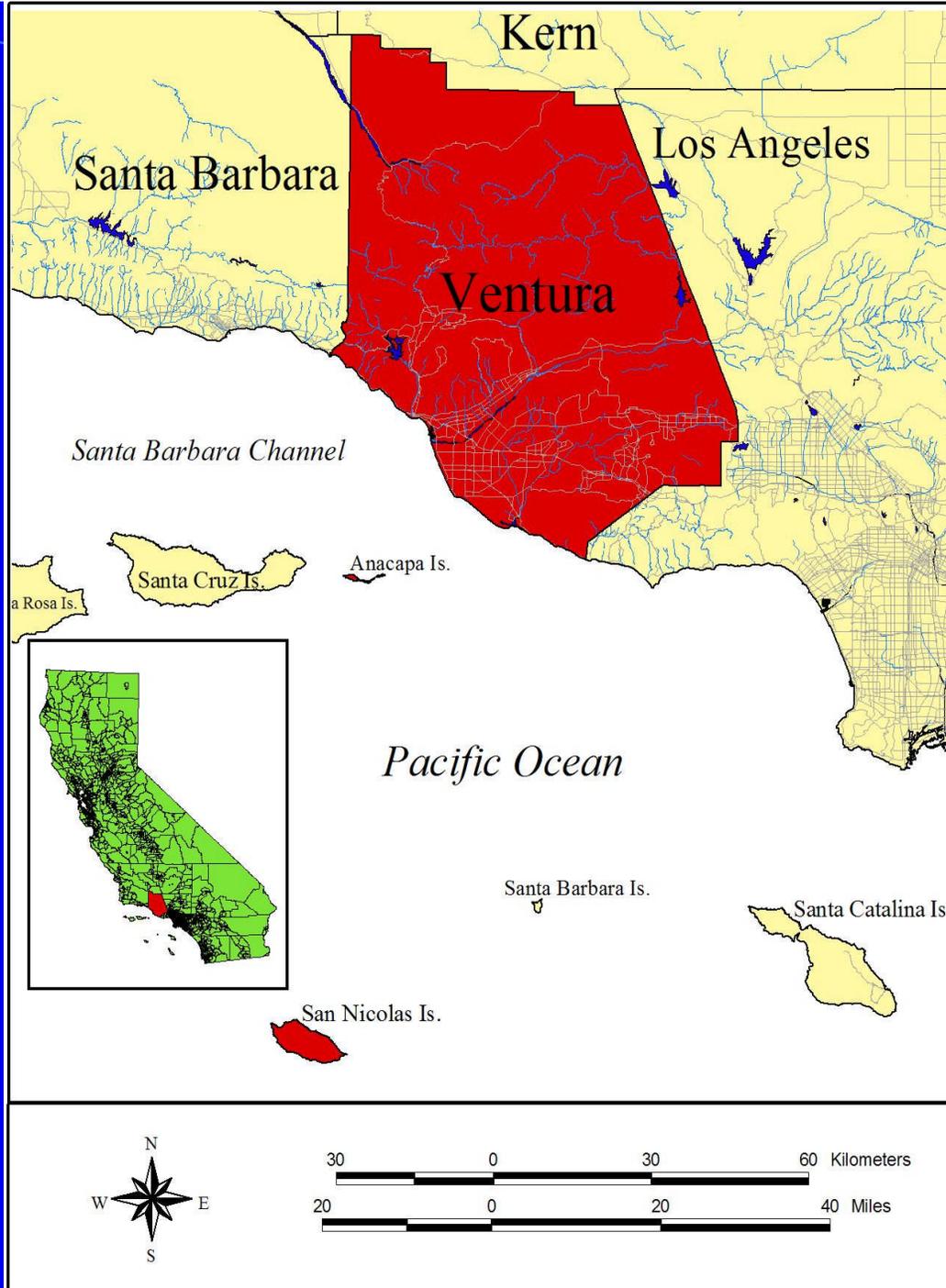
Locally Rare Plants of Ventura County

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Topics Covered

- **Purpose: Why locally rare list?**
- **Definitions Used**
- **Criteria**
- **Results**
- **How the list used for conservation**



Why Locally Rare?

- **Plants can be given formal protection at:**
 - **International Level (treaty, IUCN Red List)**
 - **National Level (US- Federal Endangered Species Act)**
 - **State/Province Level (e.g. California Endangered Species Act)**
 - **Local Level (local ordinance, General Plan, etc.)**
- **Almost never “listed” below state level**
 - **Leaves many species unprotected in local jurisdictions, such as counties**

Definitions of Locally Rare

- **Federally listed taxa**
- **State listed taxa**
- **CNPS listed for entire state of California**
- **Adopted NatureServe (Natural Heritage Program) rarity ranking system**
 - **G1/S1 and G2/S2 ranks**
 - **Basically: taxa with 10 or fewer populations present in Ventura County**
- **Native taxa only**

Results

- **Used personal database**
- **Identified each taxon that met the rarity criteria**
- **The Count is (as of January 2009):**
 - **1,198 taxa (56.4% of the county flora)**
 - **Two categories, rare (5 or fewer pops.) and uncommon (6-10 pops.)**
- **Checklist is updated about twice a year**

Conservation Tool

- **Conservation of the native flora needs to happen at all levels of government**
- **States and provinces are very large areas**
- **Land use decisions made at local (county) level**
 - **It is the local land use that finally determines the fate of local plant populations**
- **Having lists of locally rare plants is vital**

Next Steps

- **Create GIS database of occurrences**
- **Create similar lists for each county in California**
- **CNPS model used for Ventura County can be applied elsewhere**
- **A county flora database of plant populations is needed to provide basis for validity**

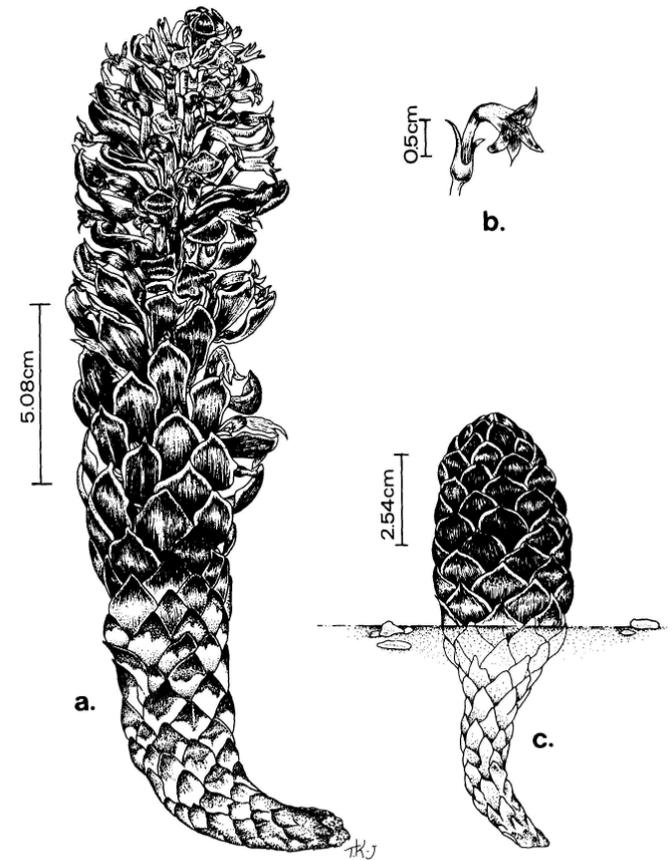
Questions?

Veratrum californicum
California False Hellebore

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Boschniakia strobilacea. a. habit; b. flower; c. emergent shoot.



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