



Preliminary Surveys of the Wetland Flora of Ormond and Chaparral of CSU Channel Islands

Jonathan Cox, Ted Liu, Alejandra Naranjo and Dr. Steven Norris

California State University Channel Islands – HSI STEM



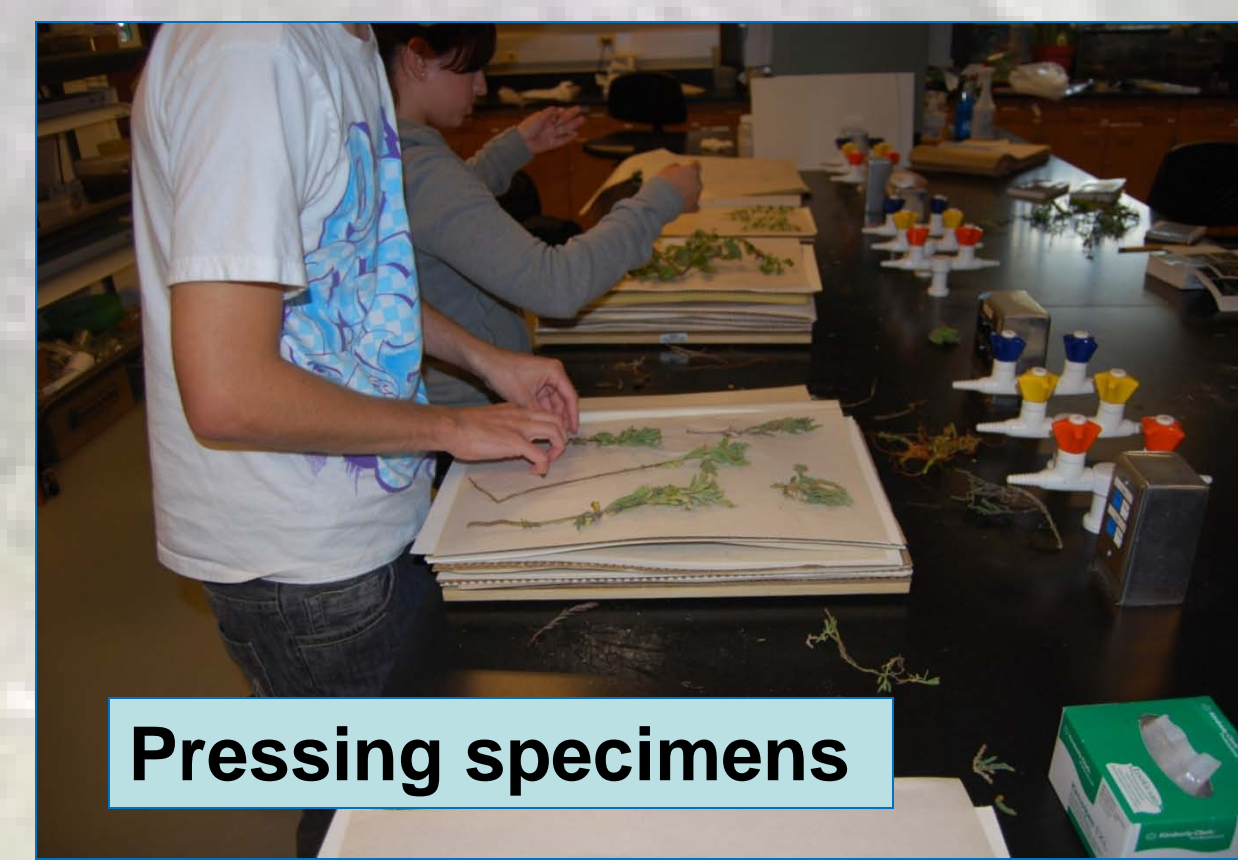
Introduction:

Biodiversity studies involve enumerating and identifying the living components of a particular region or taxonomic group. Knowing the pieces and parts of the system is the essential basis for allowing deeper understanding of the ecology or evolution of the systems or organisms in question, as well as any comparative works such as in physiology or anatomy. Certainly, conservation and restoration work, as well as tracking the effects of climate change, rely on sound accounting of the diversity of a region or group.

The modern tradition of enumerating biodiversity dates to 18th century botanist Carl Linnaeus. In this tradition, we worked to gather baseline data on the floral diversity of the battered coastal wetland at Ormond Beach, and the relatively intact Chaparral habitats surrounding the CSUCI campus. A working checklist for these floras has been formed and representative specimens have been preserved for future students and researchers to consult.



Field Samples



Pressing specimens

Methods:

The Floras of two Ventura County habitats were surveyed with emphasis on native plants. Plants were identified in the field with representative specimens collected and pressed. Pressed specimens were labeled and mounted on herbarium sheets and will be maintained in the CSUCI Herbarium.

Results:

Plants Observed on CSUCI Chaparral

<i>Selaginella biglovii</i>	spike moss
<i>Yucca whipplei</i>	Our Lord's candle
<i>Acourtia microcephala</i>	peresia
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	coastal sagebrush
<i>Hemizonia fasciculata</i>	slender tarweed
<i>Stephanomeria</i>	
<i>Malacothrix saxatilis</i>	silver puffs
<i>Uropappus lindleyi</i>	coastal prickly pear
<i>Opuntia littoralis</i> var. <i>littoralis</i>	Mexican elderberry
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	fringed Indian pink
<i>Silene laciniata</i>	morning glory
<i>Calystegia nacrastegua</i>	
<i>Dudleya blochmaniae</i>	
<i>Dudleya laceolata</i>	lance-leaf live-forever
<i>Chamaesyce albomarginata</i>	rattlesnake weed
<i>Astragalus trichopodus</i>	So. Cal. locoweed
<i>Lottus Lottus</i>	deer weed
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	purple sage
<i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i>	bush mallow
<i>Eriogonum cinereum</i>	ashleaf buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat
<i>Eriogonum crocatum</i>	Conejo Buckwheat
<i>Galium</i>	
<i>Castilleja foliolosa</i>	wooly paintbrush
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	bush monkey flower

Ormond Beach Marsh and Beach Plants

<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Saltgrass
<i>Frankenia salina</i>	Alkali heath
<i>Salicornia</i>	Pickleweed
<i>Jaumea carnosa</i>	Jaumea
<i>Limonium californicum</i>	Western marsh rosemary
<i>Cressa truxillensis</i>	Alkali weed
<i>Abronia maritima</i>	Red sand verbena
<i>Cordylanthus maritimus</i>	Salt marsh bird's beak
<i>Cuscuta salina</i>	Salt marsh dodder

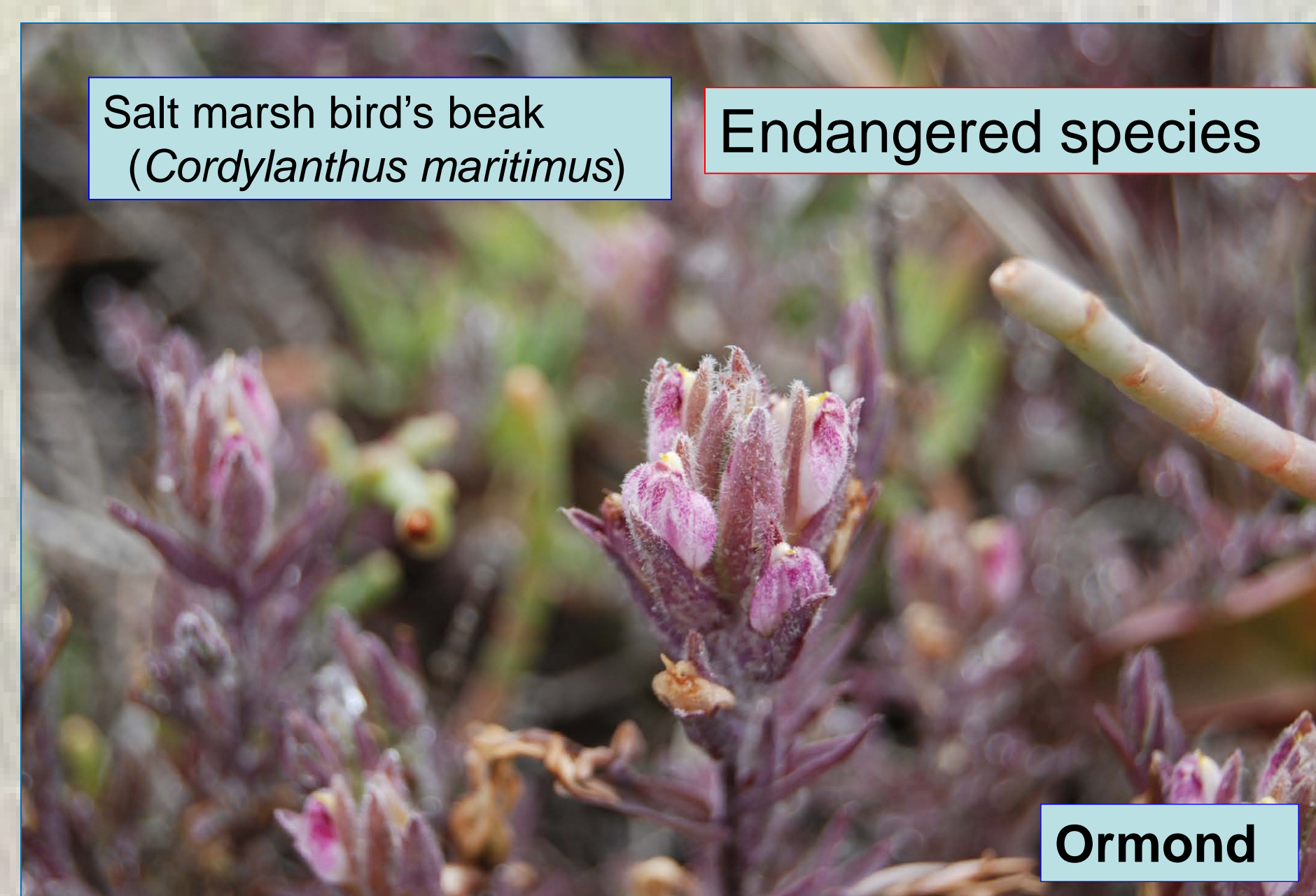
Red indicates an endangered or protected species

Ormond Beach wetland



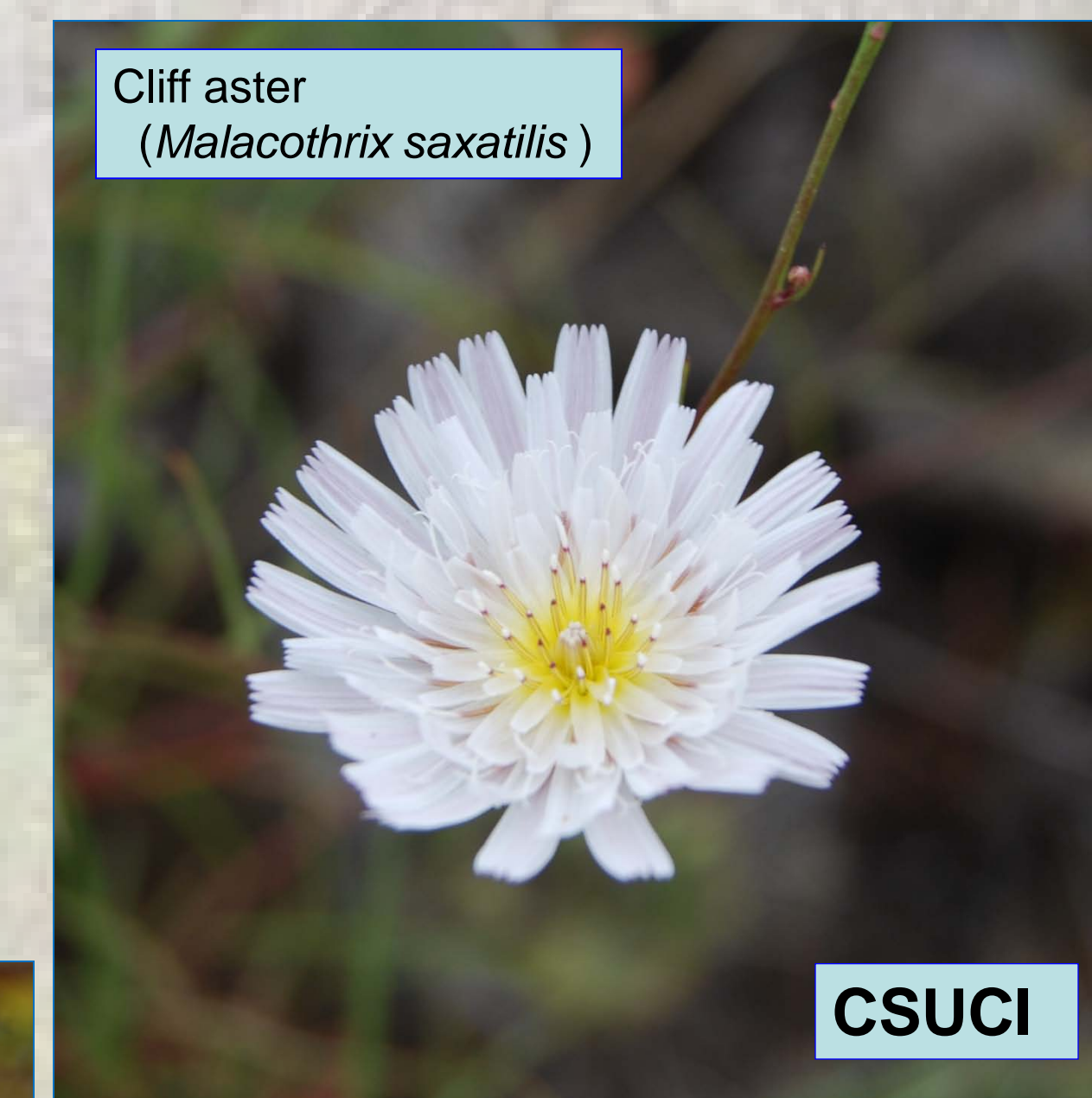
Salt marsh bird's beak (*Cordylanthus maritimus*)

Endangered species



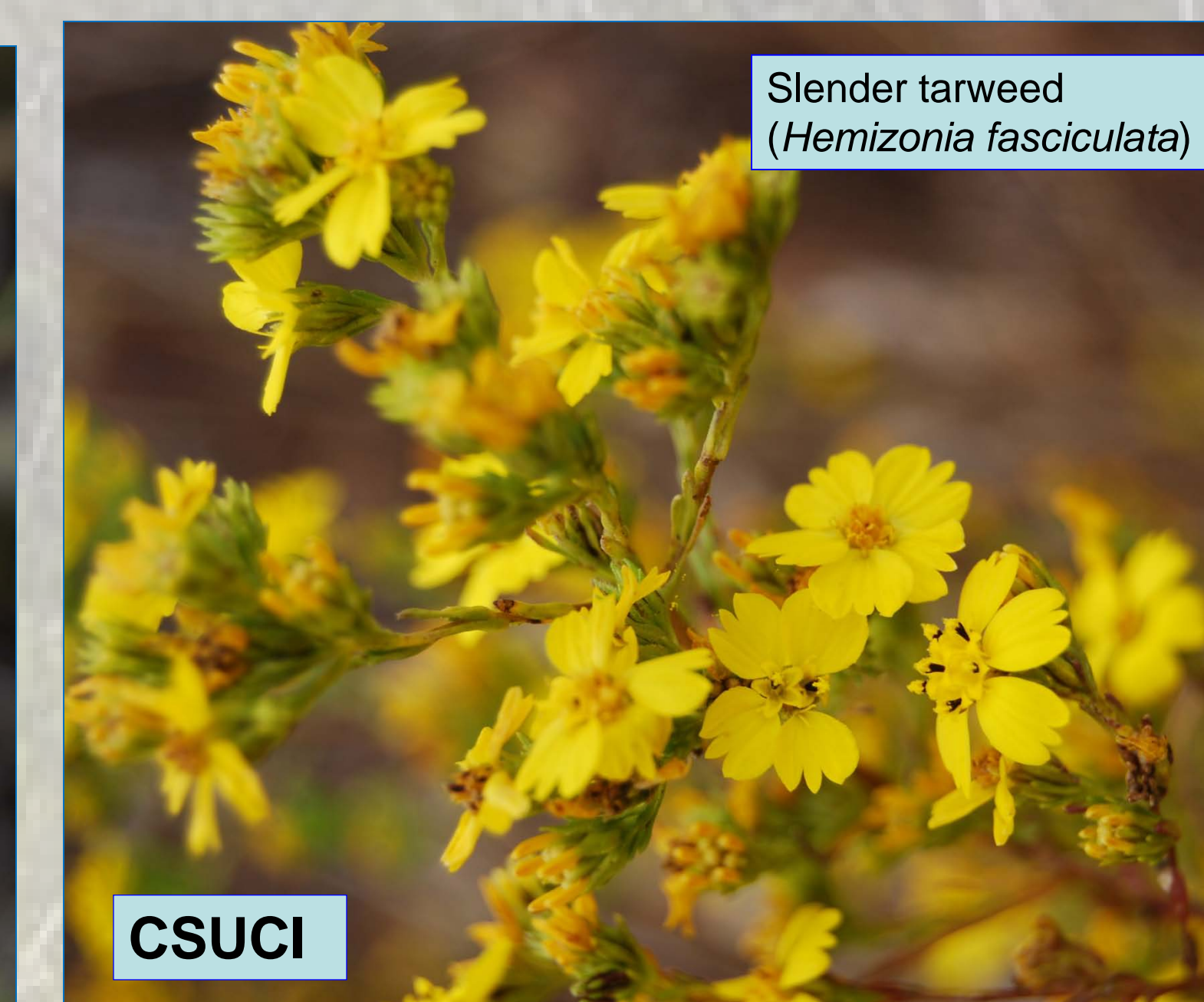
Ormond

Cliff aster (*Malacothrix saxatilis*)



CSUCI

Slender tarweed (*Hemizonia fasciculata*)



CSUCI

Endangered species

Conejo buckwheat (*Eriogonum crocatum*)



CSUCI

CSUCI Chaparral



Conclusion:

We expect these results to be applied in conservation, restoration and monitoring research. This work, part of preliminary or ongoing surveys, provide baseline data on the diversity of these two divergent habitats. Data from the Ormond Beach surveys will assist planned restoration and education programs. Data from the CSUCI Chaparral will allow for better stewardship of this special habitat.