

**CHECKLIST OF THE  
VASCULAR PLANTS OF  
SANTA MARGARITA FIELD STATION,  
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY**

**2ND EDITION**

**2001**

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## Preface

This is the second edition of a checklist of the vascular plant species known to occur in Santa Margarita Field Station of San Diego State University, Riverside County, California. This area, comprising 4,344 acres, is the largest of the SDSU field stations. The Santa Margarita Field Station includes mountain slopes and ridges, canyons, open fields, and the Santa Margarita river and gorge. The elevation ranges from 500 to 2,300 feet. The vegetation is primarily chamise, mixed chaparral, coastal/inland sage scrub, oak woodland, grasslands, riparian woodland, aquatic, and ruderal (disturbed). Most of the field station is relatively undisturbed. However, because the surrounding areas are becoming increasingly urbanized, preservation of the ecosystems of Santa Margarita is vital. Documentation of the species that live in the park is an essential step in monitoring the health of those ecosystems.

The checklist is based primarily on observations and documentation of specimens deposited at the herbarium at San Diego State University (SDSU). Nomenclature is updated, based on *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California* (1993, James C. Hickman, ed., Univ. Calif. Press, Berkeley). One prominent exception to the family classification in *The Jepson Manual* is the splitting here of the Liliaceae (sensu lato, as in Jepson) into the more natural

families Agavaceae (*Yucca*), Alliaceae (*Allium*), Asparagaceae (*Asparagus*), Hyacinthaceae (*Chlorogalum*), Liliaceae (*Calochortus*, *Fritillaria*), Melanthiaceae (*Zigadenus*), and Themidaceae (*Bloomeria*, *Brodiaea*, *Dichelostemma*, and *Muilla*). This latter classification is based on *The Families of the Monocotyledons* (1985, R.M.T. Dahlgren, et al., Springer-Verlag, New York), except for the recent resurrection of the family Themidaceae as distinct from the Alliaceae (M.F. Fay & M.W. Chase. 1996. *Taxon* 45:441-451). Although sometimes difficult to discern based on gross morphology, these families represent more natural groupings.

The current count of native and naturalized vascular plants occurring in the Santa Margarita Field Station is **145** species, including subspecies and varieties. Of the total taxa, **121 (83%)** are native and **24 (17%)** are non-native. The latter are mostly naturalized, but include some taxa that are cultivated, waifs, or persistent after cultivation.

This work generally follows the format of *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Diego County* (Simpson, M.G., S.C. McMillan, B.L. Stone, J.Gibson, and J.P. Rebman, 1996, 2nd ed.). Indicated in the checklist are: higher level taxonomic groups (**BOLD**, all capitals), families (**Bold**), species, subspecies or varieties (**bold and italics**; ssp.=subspecies, var.=variety), common names (SMALL CAPITALS, from *The Jepson Manual* for species where listed, otherwise for the genus if no species name is given), and environmental listing, where applicable. Full authorships of species and infraspecies (varieties and subspecies) are listed from *The Jepson Manual*.

Environmental listing information is based on *California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California* (Mark W. Skinner & Bruce M. Pavlik, eds., 2001, 6th edition). The number and letter code from the *CNPS's Inventory* is explained on the inside, back cover. In cases where a subspecific taxon is not recognized in *The Jepson Manual*, but is recognized and listed in the *CNPS's Inventory*, state/federal status is indicated for the synonym.

The following symbols are used in the checklist:

\* indicates that the species is not native to the county, but has become naturalized (spreading in non-cultivated areas).

[ ] cites synonyms of *A Flora of San Diego County* and/or pertinent notes.

{ } citers documentation of specimens deposited at the San Diego State University herbarium (SDSU).

The species are listed in two sections. The first section lists species within major vascular plant groups: Lycopods, Ferns, Angiosperms-Dicots, and Angiosperms-Monocots. Within these major groups, families and species are listed alphabetically. The second section lists species alphabetically, with

common names and families. Examples of the format used are seen on the inside front cover.

Notification of any additions or corrections to this checklist would be appreciated. Please send to Michael Simpson, Dept. of Biology, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182-0057 or call the **SDSU** Herbarium at 619-594-8012 or email to: [msimpson@sunstroke.sdsu.edu](mailto:msimpson@sunstroke.sdsu.edu).

Janet Knotts, Jill Steinberg, Jerry Jenkins, Jim Dice, and several students from the SDSU Taxonomy of California Plants course helped to provide documentation for many of the species cited here. I thank Jeanne Burch for originally entering much of the data into our database listing.

-M.G.S.

San Diego State University, May 2001