

Identifying Your Local Urban Ecological Community

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Contents

1	Species Identification	2
1.1	1.	2
1.2	2.	2
1.3	3.	3
1.4	4.	3
1.5	5.	4
1.6	6.	4
1.7	7.	4
1.8	8.	5
1.9	9.	5
1.10	10.	5
1.11	11.	6
1.12	12.	6
1.13	13.	6
1.14	14.	7
1.15	15.	7
2	Food Web	8

1 Species Identification

1.1 1.

Species Name: Strelitzia

Scientific Name: Genus Strelitzia

Common Name(s): Bird-of-paradise flowers

- 1) Photograph
- 2) Location
Outside Biology classroom
- 3) Interesting Fact
They are the official flower of Los Angeles, California.
- 4) Observations
It looks particularly unique compared to other plants with bright colors that seem to attract pollinators.

1.2 2.

Species Name: Trachelospermum

Scientific Name: Genus Trachelospermum

Common Name(s): Star/Confederate Jasmine

- 1) Photograph

- 2) Location
Area between the Mesa center, Biology classroom, and Physics classrooms.
- 3) Interesting Fact
All species of *Trachelospermum* are native to southern and eastern Asia.
- 4) Observations
As many of the buds were closed, it is likely that they are still yet to bloom.

1.3 3.

Species Name: *debilis*
Scientific Name: *Oxalis debilis*
Common Name(s): Largeflower pink-sorrel

- 1) Photograph
- 2) Location
Area between the Mesa center, Biology classroom, and Physics classrooms.
- 3) Interesting Fact
Largeflower pink-sorrels appear on every continent except Antarctica.
- 4) Observations
The groups of this flower seemed to bloom alongside other flowers which could either be a byproduct of the aesthetic El Camino gardeners aimed for, or a sort of biological advantage.

1.4 4.

Species Name: *Rhaphiolepis*
Scientific Name: Genus *Rhaphiolepis*
Common Name(s): Pink Lady

- 1) Photograph
- 2) Location
West of Physics department.
- 3) Interesting Fact
The etymology of *Rhaphiolepis* comes from the Greek words *rhpais*, meaning needle, and *lepis*, “the scale on the bracteole of flowers”.
- 4) Observations
A fair amount of these flowers seemed to be wilting, which could be a consequence of the shaded area it grows in due to it being surrounded by school buildings.

1.5 5.

Species Name: grandiflorum

Scientific Name: Linum grandiflorum

Common Name(s): Scarlet Flax

- 1) Photograph
- 2) Location
The bench area between the Physics department and Cafe Camino.
- 3) Interesting Fact
The Scarlet Flax is native to Algeria!
- 4) Observations
The pollen on the Scarlet Flax seem to be relatively more visible than others.

1.6 6.

Species Name: cyanus

Scientific Name: Centaurea cyanus

Common Name(s): Cornflower

- 1) Photograph
- 2) Location
The bench area between the Physics department and Cafe Camino.
- 3) Interesting Fact
The Cornflower carries many myths such as how their blue color was believed to have been dyed from the sky.
- 4) Observations
Their bountiful and attractive palette of colors seems to be used to attract pollinators.

1.7 7.

Species Name: sinuata

Scientific Name: Dimorphotheca sinuata

Common Name(s): Cape marigold

- 1) Photograph
- 2) Location
The bench area between the Physics department and Cafe Camino.
- 3) Interesting Fact
Despite its beautiful and safe colors, the cape marigold is known to be an invasive plant species.

4) Observations

The orange color makes me feel like it may be flower most often in Summer.

1.8 8.

Species Name: tanacetifolia

Scientific Name: Phacelia tanacetifolia

Common Name(s): Lacy phacelia

1) Photograph

2) Location

The bench area between the Physics department and Cafe Camino.

3) Interesting Fact

Its curved stem has given it a nickname of “scorpionweed”.

4) Observations

The prickly hairs on the stem of the Lacy phacelia seems to be a means to steer pollinators to fly instead to its flower. A sort of directing mechanism.

1.9 9.

Species Name: tinctoria

Scientific Name: Coreopsis tinctoria

Common Name(s): plains coreopsis

1) Photograph

2) Location

The bench area between the Physics department and Cafe Camino.

3) Interesting Fact

Many sources claim that the name “Coreopsis” means “always cheerful”.

4) Observations

The pattern of colors on the plains coreopsis reminds me of a bullseye, maybe used as a way to attract pollinators.

1.10 10.

Species Name: officinale

Scientific Name: Taraxacum officinale

Common Name(s): common dandelion

1) Photograph

2) Location

Between Cafe Camino and the Library.

3) Interesting Fact

Dandelions have roots that loosen soil and help prevent erosion.

4) Observations

As the picture shows the dandelion in its yellow stage, it shows that it has not yet pollinated.

1.11 11.

Species Name: pannosa

Scientific Name: Podosphaera pannosa

Common Name(s): Rose Powdery Mildew

1) Photograph

2) Location

The back side of the school library.

3) Interesting Fact

The Rose powdery mildew is said to be one of the “most common foliar diseases of roses.”

4) Observations

I found it interesting that some of the buds have flowered - greatly at that - while some were still in their bud stage. It could be inferred that their flowering stage is rather quick.

1.12 12.

Species Name: Dietes

Scientific Name: Genus Dietes

Common Name(s): Fortnight Lilies

1) Photograph

2) Location

The back side of the school library.

3) Interesting Fact

The etymology of the name “fortnight lilies” comes from how it produces many flowers during the spring to late summer season, having only two weeks (a fortnight) of rest between each flowering period.

4) Observations

Each flower seemed to share petals with a dark brown circle in the center, possibly used as a way to scare off animals that may try to damage the flower.

1.13 13.

Species Name: audax

Scientific Name: Phidippus audax

Common Name(s): Bold Jumping Spider

- 1) Photograph
- 2) Location
The walkway from the library towards the auditorium.
- 3) Interesting Fact
The way jumping spiders *jump*, is by changing the blood flow to their legs, where it contracts muscles in a way to fully extend them as they fly towards their target!
- 4) Observations
The black and white coloring of this jumping spider led me to believe that it wants to intimidate its prey by its alarming and contrasting colors.

1.14 14.

Species Name: brachyrhynchos
Scientific Name: Corvus brachyrhynchos
Common Name(s): American Crow

- 1) Photograph
- 2) Location
On top of the fence along the walkway from the library to the auditorium.
- 3) Interesting Fact
Crows are some of the few animals that have the intuition to make tools.
- 4) Observations
The crow seemed desperate and scurried often possibly meaning that it was hungry.

1.15 15.

Species Name: Sciurus
Scientific Name: Genus Sciurus
Common Name(s): Tree Squirrels

- 1) Photograph
- 2) Location
The bench area between the Physics department and Cafe Camino.
- 3) Interesting Fact
Squirrels utilize a unique movement tactic where they zigzag as they sprint to escape from predators.
- 4) Observations
The squirrel seemed eager to discover the treasures in the garbage cans, probably because it was hungry.

2 Food Web



