

DIGITAL RESOURCES FOR THE FLORA OF BAJA CALIFORNIA

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Current research projects being conducted by the San Diego Natural History Museum such as an annotated, voucher-based checklist of the vascular plants of the Baja California region and the digitization of the approximately 30,000 photographic slides and prints of vascular plant species in the Museum's botanical archives are providing many online resources for the public and the scientific community. To date, more than 5000 herbarium specimen vouchers (one of each taxon to be used as a visual resource for identification) that document the diversity of the flora of Baja California and Baja California Sur have been scanned and approximately 18,000 digitized plant photographs from the region are available online at www.bajaflora.org. Historic and recent landscape photographs from throughout the peninsula and adjacent islands (~15,500 photos) have been scanned and georeferenced & are available on the web. A geographic place names index based upon herbarium label data and other historic resources is currently searchable online by locality name or by general area. Historic maps dating as far back as 1889 have been digitized and geolocated and can be compared directly with recent satellite imagery in order to cross-reference historic collection localities and routes of early collecting trips into the area. The 17 volumes of field collection books from Dr. Reid Moran's botanical explorations and research are digitally scanned and indexed. The increased accessibility to the SD Herbarium data (approximately 47,200 specimens from the Baja California region) and the combined specimen database of 7 different regional herbaria in both the USA & Mexico called the Baja California Botanical Consortium that includes almost 87,000 specimen records is providing an indispensable tool for mapping, conserving, and better understanding diversity and distribution trends of the flora of Baja California.