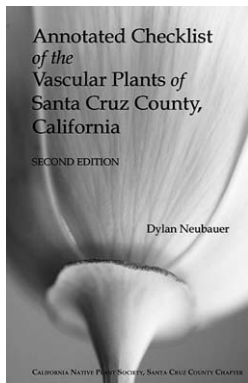


## REVIEW



*Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County, California. Second edition.* By DYLAN NEUBAUER. 2013. California Native Plant Society, Santa Cruz County Chapter, Santa Cruz, CA. 166 pp. Price \$15.00 (spiral bound).

Santa Cruz County is the second smallest county in California, yet nearly twenty percent of the California flora can be found natively there. This makes botanical references of the area relevant to most botanists in California. Dylan Neubauer has just produced an exceptional resource with her new edition of the *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County, California. Second Edition*. For a checklist to be useful, it needs to simply list all of the plants found in an area, but Neubauer's checklist goes far beyond that. The checklist begins with colored maps of Santa Cruz County with public lands and special botanical areas marked. Santa Cruz County has been divided into 17 floristic regions and each is marked on a map, and referenced for each taxa. The checklist includes 1594 taxa (native and non-native) found within the county, and Neubauer has made every attempt to reference a voucher specimen for each one. All taxa are recognized under the revised taxonomy published recently in the new Jepson Manual (TJM2) and the corresponding eFlora (Baldwin et al. 2012). However, you will not be lost with this checklist if you only know the older names, as the index lists all synonyms and serves as a way to relearn taxa that have undergone recent name revisions.

The meat of this checklist, and what sets it apart from a simple list of plants, lies in the book's eight appendices. For land managers and those working with rare plants Appendix 1 provides a list of all rare taxa and their rarity ranking according to Federal, State, and CNPS listings. Appendix 2 lists the 16 endemic taxa to Santa Cruz County. Appendix 3 lists those taxa that appear to be unfortunately extirpated from

the county. Despite the small size of Santa Cruz County, botanical discovery still abounds, and Appendix 4 lists those taxa that are not currently recognized but deserve taxonomic distinction within the county. Some of these taxa will be published as new species, or serve as the basis of studies of local adaptation within Santa Cruz. The extensive research conducted by Neubauer to produce this checklist is evident throughout, but especially in Appendix 7. Here, Neubauer, lists taxa that do not occur in the county despite past misconceptions. Most of these taxa are the result of misidentifications, which Neubauer confirmed herself by traveling to many herbaria in California, or are waifs, or otherwise unverified in the county. This appendix alone will prevent reoccurring identification errors, and could provide a starting point for future discovery as waifs become more persistent. The checklist ends with Appendix 8, the 'Notes' section, which is the most extensive and valuable portion of this checklist. The Notes section is what makes this checklist more like an actual flora. These notes, provided by Neubauer and a host of local experts, offer a wealth of information about most taxa in the county. These notes provide a discussion of taxonomic issues, or key characters to look at during identification. If two species are commonly confused, the Notes section will call out their differences. This section also covers natural history details about taxa, how they vary throughout the county, where specific forms are found, and speculation on how some have arrived to the county. For anyone interested in a particular taxon, Appendix 8 is a great place to start your investigations.

The checklist is spiral bound and perfect for use in and out of the field. The checklist is an excellent resource for botanical investigations, a weekend hike, or nursery inventories. I highly recommend it. Contact Cindy Hudson (cindy@centralcoastwilds.com) from the Santa Cruz CNPS Chapter to obtain a copy.

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### LITERATURE CITED

- BALDWIN B. G., D. H. GOLDMAN, D. J. KEIL, R. PATTERSON, T. J. ROSATTI, AND D. H. WILKEN (eds.). 2012. The Jepson Manual: vascular plants of California, 2nd ed. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.