

# CALIFORNIA PHENOLOGY

Capturing California's flowers: Using digital images to investigate phenological change in a biodiversity hotspot

**CAL POLY**  
SAN LUIS OBISPO



Katie Pearson

Project manager, California Phenology (CAP) TCN

# California Phenology (CAP) TCN

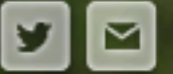


*Leadership Starts Here*

# Project Management

- Lead PI: Jenn Yost (Hoover Herbarium, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo)
- Project manager: Katelin (Katie) Pearson
- Data manager: Jason Alexander
- Symbiota developer: Ed Gilbert





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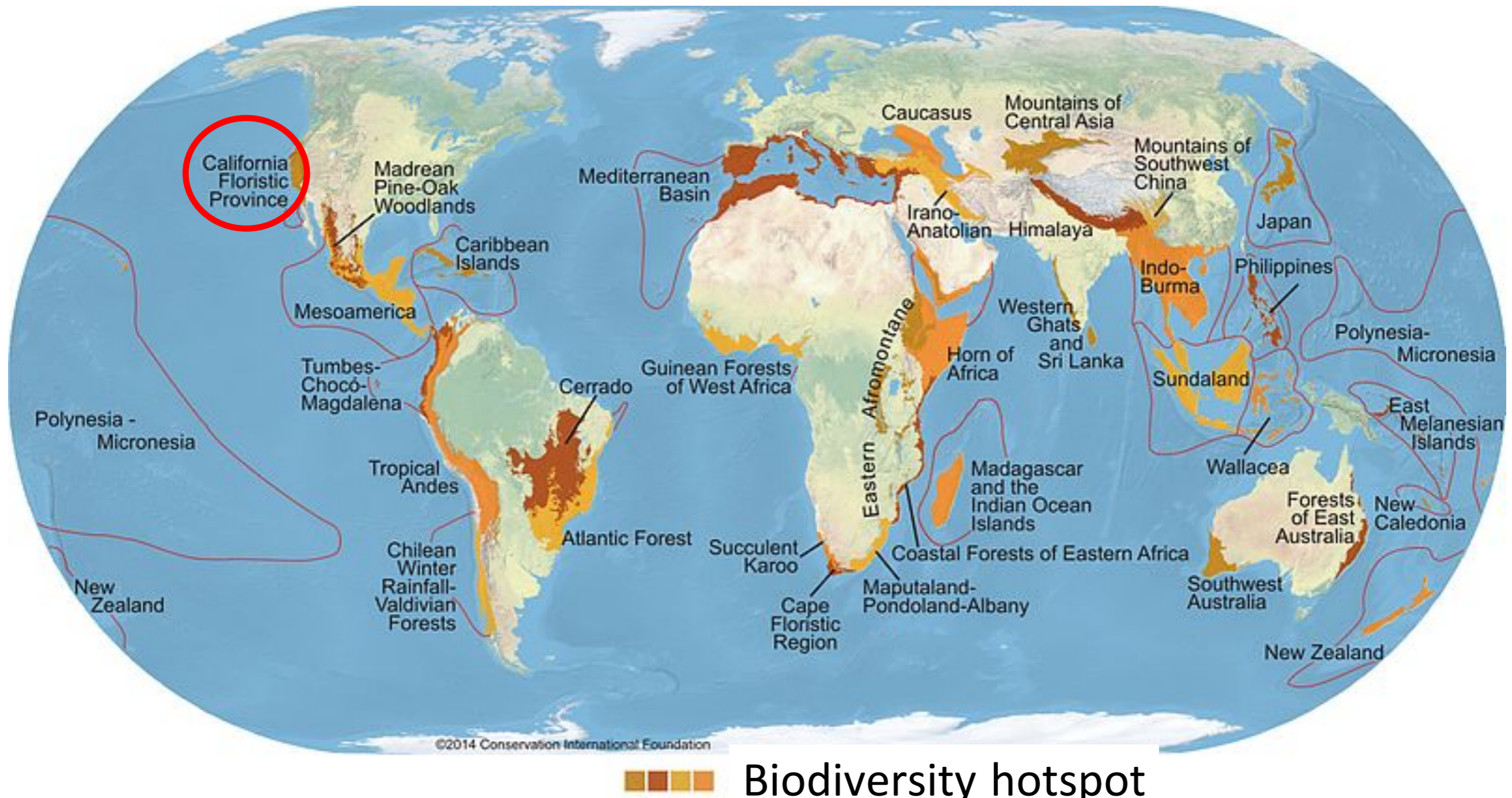
Portal

# CALIFORNIA PHENOLOGY

Capturing California's flowers: Using digital images to investigate phenological change in a biodiversity hotspot

[capturingcaliforniasflowers.org](http://capturingcaliforniasflowers.org)

# Goals of CAP TCN



Conservation International ([conservation.org](http://conservation.org)) defines 35 biodiversity hotspots — extraordinary places that harbor vast numbers of plant and animal species found nowhere else. All are heavily threatened by habitat loss and degradation, making their conservation crucial to protecting nature for the benefit of all life on Earth.

# Goals of CAP TCN

## 1. Image, database, and georeference 904,200 specimens

- 22 target families
  - Oldest records
  - Most diverse families
  - Most endemic and threatened families
- 250 additional taxa



# Goals of CAP TCN

2. Capture phenological data for all 900,000+ specimens
  - From images
  - From label data



# Goals of CAP TCN

## 3. Manage data in centralized, standardized portal



## Welcome to the Consortium of California Herbaria Portal (CCH2)

CCH2 serves data from specimens housed in CCH member herbaria. The data included in this database represents all specimen records from partner institutions. The data served through this portal are currently growing due to the work of the **California Phenology Thematic Collections Network (CAP-TCN)**. This collaboration of 22 California universities, research stations, natural history collections, and botanical gardens aims to capture images, label data, and phenological (i.e., flowering time) data from nearly 1 million herbarium specimens by 2022. Data contained in the CCH2 portal will continue to grow even after this time through the activities of the CCH member institutions.

For more information about the California Phenology TCN, visit the project website:

<https://www.capturingcaliforniasflowers.org>

For more information about the California Consortium of Herbaria (CCH) see:

<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/about.html>

The California Phenology TCN is made possible by the National Science Foundation Award 1802312. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.







# Specimen Details

[Report a Problem](#)

Species: Acacia angustissima var. hirta  
 Collection Date: June 2, 1989  
 Bar Code ID: 000027046  
 UUID: ee815114-857c-4b75-8c51-63274085c594  
 Collectors: Loran C. Anderson  
 Collector's Identifier: 12045  
 Flowers Present?: True  
 Country: United States  
 State or Province: Florida  
 County or Parish: Dixie  
 Plant Morphology Observations: Filaments prominently white, perianth light green  
 Local Abundance Observations: Frequent



[View Image](#) [View JPEG](#)  
[Download JPEG \(1.59 MB\)](#)

## BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSERVATION DATA CENTRE - Flora of British Columbia -

*amineum* Lej.  
 LOCALITY: Carnation Creek estuary, ca. 14 km NE of Bamfield  
 HABITAT: Dominant on tidal mud flats with *Plantago maritima*, *Honkenya peploides*, *Spergularia*, and *Salicornia virginica*; slope 1%; asp W  
 COORDINATES: 10U 353300 5419600 NAD 83  
 LONGITUDE: 48°10'/125°00' ELEV 0 m  
 COLLECTOR: G.W. Douglas, J.L. Penny & N. Alexander  
 COLL NO: 13298 COLL. DATE: 98-06-30  
 PLOT NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ DET.: GWD/98  
 NOTES: ca. 500 plants/ha.; flowers reddish-tinged

### PLANTS OF CONNECTICUT

Rubus flagellaris Willd.

Connecticut: Litchfield Co., Sharon  
 near the road, Housatonic State Forest  
 petals - white; trailing

Leslie J. Mehrhoff 8030 23 JUN 1983

TORREY HERBARIUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
 CONNECTICUT STATE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

### SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO SIERRA JUÁREZ

Lasthenia coronaria (Nutt.) Ornduff

Heads yellow.

Common on grassy steep north slope,  
 San José, 6 km east of Tecate.

Near 32° 33' N, 116° 34' W Elevation ca. 600 m  
 Reid Moran 28481 10 May 1980



PLANTS OF THE HOPLAND FIELD STATION

University of California  
Mendocino County

*Rosa californica* Cham. & Schldl.

Location: S-1, app .25mi SE of James Cabin.

Site: Edge of pond.

Elevation: 1,600 ft,

Date: 6-9-97

Plant Number: #2031

Collected by:

Kerry L. Heise



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Date: 6-9-97  
Plant Number: #2031  
Collected by:  
Kerry L. Heise

Notes in database: fl. present



# Need for Phenological Standards

- Phenology is quantified (and stored!) differently according to research and institutional priorities
  - Description of methods may be difficult to find

# Need for Phenological Standards

- Phenology is quantified (and stored!) differently according to research and institutional priorities
  - Description of methods may be difficult to find
- For most powerful phenological research, records must be aggregated.
- Non-standardized data is difficult to mine and analyze in a meaningful way.

# Scoring Herbarium Specimens for Phenology Workshop, March 2016

David Baxter

Stanley Blum

Kjell Bolmgren

Richard Carter

Ellen Denny

Michael Denslow

Libby Ellwood

Amanda Gallinat

Edward Gilbert

Jillian Goodwin

Robert Guralnick

Marie Keatley

James Macklin

Staci Markos

Susan Mazer

Brent Mishler

Ashley Morris

Gil Nelson

Sarah Newman

Katie Pearson

Susanne Renner

Katja Seltmann

Pam Soltis

Tim Sparks

Patrick Sweeney

John Wieczorek

Charlie Willis

Jenn Yost



# Phenological scoring for angiosperms

First-order	Second-order	Third-order
Are 'reproductive structures' present? (yes/no/not scorable)	Are 'unopen flowers' present? Are 'open flowers' present?	Mostly 'unopen flowers?' (or counts) Mostly 'open flowers?' (or counts) Mostly 'post-mature flowers?' (or counts) Mostly 'immature fruits?' (or counts) Mostly 'mature fruits?' (or counts) Mostly 'post-mature fruits?' (or counts)
	Are 'fruits' present?	

---

Yost et al. 2018, *APPS*



New Occurrence Record

Collector Info

Catalog Number ? Other Cat. #s ? Collector ? Number ? Date ?   Auto search

Associated Collectors ? Verbatim Date ?

Exsiccati Title Number

Latest Identification

Scientific Name ? Author ?

ID Confidence ? Undefined  ID Qualifier ?

Family ?

Identified By ? Date Identified ?

Misc

Habitat ?

Substrate ?

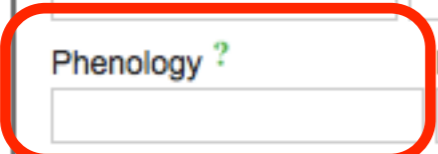
Associated Taxa ?

Description ?

Notes (Occurrence Remarks) ?

Life Stage ? Sex ? Individual Count ? Sampling Protocol ? Preparations ?

Phenology ? Establishment Means ?  Cultivated



CCH2

Featuring Data From the California Phenology TCN



Life Stage ?      Sex ?      Individual Count ?      Sampling Protocol ?      Preparations ?

Phenology ?      Establishment Means ?       Cultivated

Reproductive structures present

True       False       $\leq\leq$

Unopen flower present:

True       False       $\leq\leq$

Open flower present:

True       False       $\leq\leq$

Fruit present:

True       False

Count open flowers present:

Percent open flowers present:

Other metric, open flowers:



Life Stage ?      Sex ?      Individual Count ?      Sampling Protocol ?      Preparations ?

Phenology ?      Establishment Means ?       Cultivated

Reproductive structures present

True       False       $\leq$

Unopen flower present:

True       False       $\leq$

Open flower present:

True       False       $\leq$

Fruit present:

True       False

Count open flowers present: **12**

Percent open flowers present:

Other metric, open flowers:

# Robert F. Hoover Herbarium, Cal Poly State University (OBI)

[Home](#) >> [Collection Management](#) >> [Public Display](#) >> [Editor](#)

Occurrence Data | Determination History | Images | Linked Resources | Admin | **Attributes**

### Collector Info

Catalog Number ?	Other Cat. #s ?	Collector ?	Number ?	Date ?	Dupes?
	80342	Jenn Yost	s.n.	2014-11-11	<input type="checkbox"/> Auto search

Associated Collectors ?	Verbatim Date ?
Matt Ritter et al.	11/11/2014 

# Attribute Scoring Editor



## Filter

Taxon:

Phenology (ver 1.0)

Target Specimens: 12

## Action Panel - Phenology (ver 1.0)

Reproductive

Flowering

Mostly buds

Mostly open

Mostly old

Fruiting

Budding

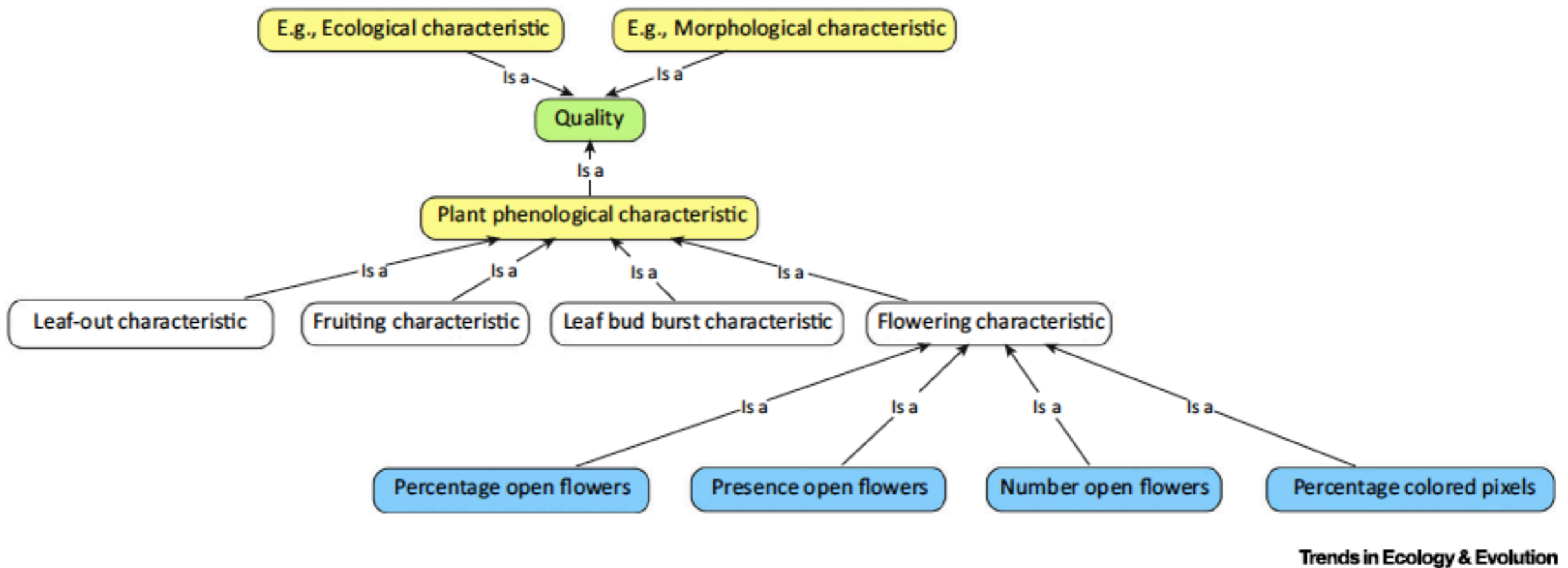
Sterile

Not scorable

Notes:

Status:

# Plant Phenology Ontology



## The Plant Phenology Ontology: A New Informatics Resource for Large-Scale Integration of Plant Phenology Data

Brian J. Stucky<sup>1\*</sup>, Rob Guralnick<sup>1</sup>, John Deck<sup>2</sup>, Ellen G. Denny<sup>3</sup>, Kjell Bolmgren<sup>4</sup> and Ramona Walls<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, United States, <sup>2</sup> Berkeley Natural History Museums, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, United States, <sup>3</sup> USA National Phenology Network, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, United States, <sup>4</sup> Unit for Field-based Forest Research, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Lamnhult, Sweden, <sup>5</sup> CyVerse, The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, United States

Frontiers in Plant Science

# Darwin Core: MeasurementOrFact

## MeasurementOrFact

measurementID | measurementType | measurementValue | measurementAccuracy | measurementUnit | measurementDeterminedBy | measurementDeterminedDate | measurementMethod | measurementRemarks

eMoF term	NEVP value	example
measurementID	version 4 UUID	urn:uuid:...
occurrenceID	version 4 UUID (usually)	urn:uuid:...
measurementType	NEVP vocabulary term (NEVP SKOS concept 'reproductive condition')	reproductive condition
measurementTypeID	NEVP SKOS Concept URI	<a href="http://purl.org/nevp/vocabulary/reproductive-phenology#01">http://purl.org/nevp/vocabulary/reproductive-phenology#01</a>
measurementValue	NEVP vocabulary term (NEVP SKOS prefLabel) or value	flowering: mostly open
measurementValueID	NEVP SKOS Concept URI or empty	<a href="http://purl.org/nevp/vocabulary/reproductive-phenology#09">http://purl.org/nevp/vocabulary/reproductive-phenology#09</a>
measurementDeterminedDate	ISO 8601 formatted date	12/31/17
measurementDeterminedBy	verbatim determiner name	John Doe
measurementMethod	textual description of scoring method	Phenological state determined by human from image(s) of herbarium specimen. Symbiota database GUID for image is provided in ac:providerManagedID.
measurementRemarks		Many reproductive units damaged by herbivory. Reviewed.

# Advisory Committee

- Kjell Bolmgren (Swedish National Phenology Network)
- Katharine Gerst (USA-NPN)
- Gil Nelson (iDigBio)
- Patrick Sweeney (Yale, NEVP)
- James Macklin (AppleCore, Agri-food Canada)
- Liz Matthews (US National Park Service)
- Ramona Wals (Plant Phenology Ontology, Cyverse)
- Ed Gilbert (Symbiota, SEINet)
- John Wieczorek (Darwin Core)

# Questions for This Workshop

- What metadata is created with machine learning?
- What data is worth keeping from machine learning with the specimen record, **if any**?
  - How can we (and should we) store multiple scorings of a specimen?
  - Can/should we indicate our confidence in scorings?
- Is it important for us to record that something was scored by a person now for the machine learning community?
  - From image
  - From physical specimen
  - From label text
- Are there other data that we (herbaria) need to record for the computer learning community that we aren't anticipating?
  - E.g., label says it is in flower, but specimen itself is not in flower (or has lost its flowers)
- What is the relationship between machine learning scorings and the Plant Phenology Ontology?

# Acknowledgements

- iDigBio – Gil Nelson, Pam Soltis, Jillian Goodwin
- NSF – ADBC Funding to CAP TCN: Award number 1802301
- Plant Phenology Ontology - Ramona Walls, Rob Guralnick, Brian Stucky

