Submitting Data to the California Natural Diversity Database

Powell, R., Ferguson, K. & K. Lazar
Presenter email: Rachel.Powell@wildlife.ca.gov
California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Sacramento CA

About the CNDDB
The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) is an inventory of the location and status of rare plants and animals in California.

• 2,345 tracked rare plant taxa (plus 57 rare lichen and bryophyte taxa)
• 45,000+ plant element occurrences (EOs)

With the increasing array of options for collecting rare species data and sharing it online, it becomes more difficult for CNDDB staff to gather and efficiently process the best available data from many disparate sources.

CNDDB is only as good as the data we receive! Please contact us if you have questions about the best way to submit your data to CNDDB.

Thank you to all of our data submitters for sharing the results of your work with us and contributing toward the conservation of California's rare flora!

Two New Ways To Collect Rare Plant Data

CNDBD/Calflora form
Calflora has developed a new rare species observation form where you can fill out the detailed fields that CNDDB needs to make high quality occurrences.

Benefits to using Calflora:
• Only contains observations from California
• Have an app to make data collection easy

Drawbacks to using Calflora:
• Data is not directly submitted to CNDDB; data is pulled off of Calflora on a species-by-species basis when CNDDB is updating that plant

How you can help us:
• Fill out as many fields as you can!

CNDDB iNaturalist project
Benefits to using iNaturalist:
• Data collection is simple & user-friendly
• IDs are crowdsourced

Drawbacks to using iNaturalist:
• CNDDB cannot see your coordinates unless you share them with us
• Data is not directly submitted to CNDDB; data is pulled off of iNaturalist on a species-by-species basis when CNDDB is updating that plant
• Lacks detailed fields useful to CNDDB

How you can help us:
• Join the CNNDDB iNaturalist project
• Select the option to make your coordinates visible to project curators no matter who adds the observation to the project
• Add info on habitat & number of individuals (a prompt should appear when you add an observation to the CNDDB project)

Data Collection
Field surveys, population monitoring, academic research, citizen science, etc.

Data Formats
• Field Surveys
• Specimens
• Reports
• Shapefiles
• Excel tables
• Photos

Submission
Data uploaded onto external website
Data submitted directly to CNDDB

How your data get turned into CNDDB data?
CNDDB botanists update species occurrences
Updates made using submitted data, distributed via Rarefind/BIOS and shapefiles

CNNDDB distribution
CNDDB data is packaged into monthly updates, distributed via Rarefind/BIOS and shapefiles

Visit the CNDDB webpage for additional information on data submission!