

# Rarest Plants Project

## *Orcutt's Spineflower*



The Chaparral  
Lands Conservancy

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*Preserving California's Shrubland Ecosystems*

*The mission of The Chaparral Lands Conservancy is to protect shrubland ecosystems as an integral and beautiful feature of California's natural landscape through land preservation and stewardship. The Conservancy was founded to advance the conservation of shrublands, related ecosystems, dependent plants and animals and especially endangered species through acquisition of land and/or management rights, habitat restoration and enhancement, stewardship, research, and education.*



**The Chaparral  
Lands Conservancy**

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*Preserving California's Shrubland Ecosystems*

Orcutt's spineflower (*Chorizanthe orcuttiana*)

Polygonaceae (Buckwheat family)

Small Plant (0.5 - 6 inches, 1 - 15 centimeters)

Annual. Germinates at first significant autumn rain and sets seed by April.

Small, clustered flowers each produce a single seed.

Long-lived seed.

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# Conservation Status 2014

4 Occurrences on Point Loma

1 Occurrence at TPSNR Extension

2 Occurrences at TPSNR Main(?)

1 Occurrence at Oak Crest Park(?)

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# Orcutt's Spineflower Objectives

Revisit Bauder soils mapping with TPSNR Extension occurrence

Map suitable habitat in San Diego County on conserved lands

Survey conserved lands for any new occurrences and suitable habitat to establish new occurrences

Protect existing occurrences and any new occurrences

Collect and bulk seed to establish new occurrences

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Map of Occurrences 2014

Maps of 2014 Occurrences with Soils

Maps of Soils on SD County Conserved Lands

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# Results

Rarest Plants Video

KPBS Story

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Maps of 2015 Occurrences

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Protect existing occurrences and any new  
occurrences

Weeding

Fencing

Signing

Preserve Visitor Contact

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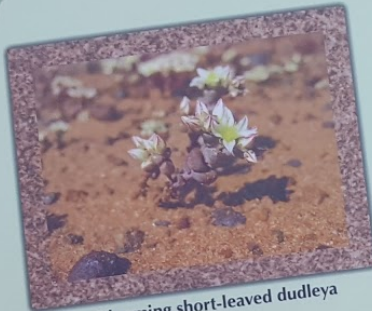








# WHAT LIVES BEHIND THE FENCE AT TORREY PINES STATE NATURAL RESERVE EXTENSION?



Blooming short-leaved dudleya

The short-leaved dudleya is an extremely rare plant that grows at only five places on the planet, all of them in north coastal San Diego County. This small, perennial succulent thrives in tiny patches of soil at the very edge of hard sandstone cliffs.



The diminutive Orcutt's spineflower

Orcutt's spineflower is another tiny endangered plant that grows only in sandy coastal soils. Most habitat was wiped out by development and it was considered extinct in the 1980s. Surveys have since found a handful of small new populations.

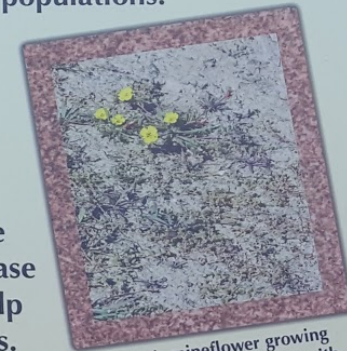


Short-leaved dudleya grows amidst areas of exposed pebbles called concretions.

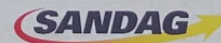
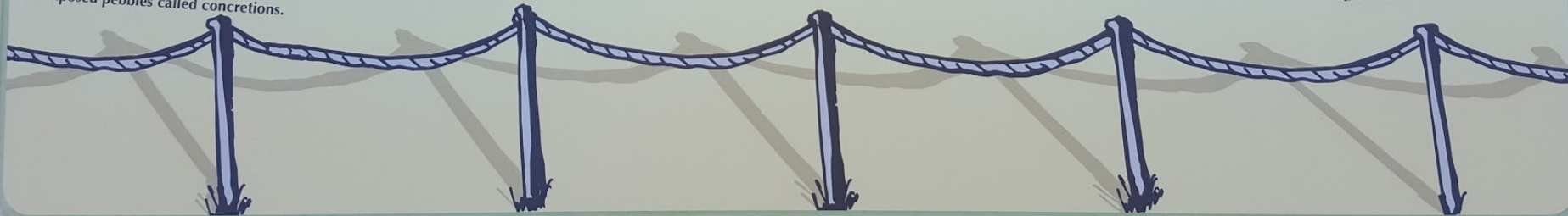


Cliff top habitat of short-leaved dudleya

Both of these rare plants are found at the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve Extension but have been trampled by people walking off trails. Please enjoy your visit to the Reserve Extension but please respect fenced areas and path closures to help protect these plants as our vital natural neighbors.



Orcutt's spineflower growing in its sandy habitat along with the larger sun cup (in bloom).





**SENSITIVE HABITAT**



**PLEASE STAY  
ON TRAIL**









# Collect and bulk seed to establish new occurrences

Three generations of Orcutt's spineflower propagated by Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

116 plants propagated to produce 64,000 seeds

25,000 seeds spread at TPSNR Extension and Main

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# Funding and Support Organizations:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
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City of Encinitas Parks and Recreation Department  
San Diego Association of Governments  
Torrey Pines Association  
University of California, San Diego  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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