

Eli Balderas

M.Sc. candidate

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RESEARCH INTERESTS:

To work on the conservation of both plants and lichens by understanding the distribution and abundance of rare and threatened species. In addition to this understanding, I am interested in restoration efforts such as propagation of those species and recovery assessments.

EDUCATION:

California Polytechnic State University-

Master of Science in Biological Sciences- (expected graduation March 2023)
GPA: 3.88

University of California Santa Barbara-

Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies - (June 2019)
Minor in Feminist Studies
GPA: 3.53

EXPERIENCE:

Biologist – (August 2020 – September 2022)

Althouse and Meade

Teaching Assistant – (August 2020 – present)

California Polytechnic State University Biological Sciences Department

Herbarium Curatorial Assistant - (June 2019 - July 2020)

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Research Assistant - (June 2018 - July 2020)

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Plant Collector - (April 2019 - June 2019)

Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration

Field Assistant - (April 2017 - June 2017 & April 2018 - June 2018)

Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration

SKILLS:

Plant Identification-

Used *Jepson Manual* to key plants to the species level.

Used multiple lichen identification guides to key lichens to genus and species levels.

SKILLS: (continued)**R-**

Morphometric analyses

Spatial data analyses

Field Work-

Performed avian fatality surveys.

Performed wetland restoration work including invasive plant removal and transplantation of native plants.

Collected 53 CA native plants and lichen.

Collected insects for pollinator study.

Herbarium Curation-

Familiar with data entry into Symbiota.

Mounted herbarium specimens.

Imaged specimens through an National Science Foundation funded grant.

Assisted in organization and integration of NPS specimens into the herbarium.

Filed specimens into the herbarium.

PRESENTATIONS:

Balderas, E., J. Dart, R. R. Naesborg, and N. Rajakaruna. Preliminary results of an ecological assessment of a rare and endangered lichen from central California: *Sulcaria isidiifera*, the splitting yarn lichen. Presentation via Zoom to the International Union for Conservation of Nature SSC Lichen Specialist Group, General Meeting, November 3, 2021.

Balderas, E., J. Dart, R. R. Naesborg, and N. Rajakaruna. 2021. An ecological assessment of a rare and endangered lichen from central California: *Sulcaria isidiifera*, the splitting yarn lichen. Paper presented via Zoom at the California Botanical Society's 28th Graduate Student Symposium, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407, May 1, 2021.

Balderas, E., K. Hasenstab-Lehman, C.M. Guilliams. Evaluating the circumscription of varieties of the seaside fiddleneck *Amsinckia spectabilis* (Boraginaceae) using morphometric analysis of fruit characters. Botany 2019, Tucson, AZ, July 27-31, 2019.

HONORS & AWARDS:**Poster Session Co-Winner-**

45th Annual Southern California Botanists Symposium (Oct. 5, 2019)

Scholarships and Grants-

David and Frieda Wertman Scholarship Recipient (2020-2021)

IUCN Species Survival Commission Internal Grant Recipient (2020)

California Lichen Society Education Grant Recipient (2021)

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING:

Lichen Red Listing Workshop - (Jan. 18-21, 2021)

4-day workshop providing Red Listing training for lichenologists in North, Central, and South America with discussions to complete lichen Red List assessments.

Introduction to Lichen Identification and Ecology- (Feb. 8-9, 2020)

Introductory course in lichen identification covering basics of lichen anatomy, terminology, and ecology.

NOLS Wilderness First Aid – (March 7-8, 2020)

Introduction to wilderness medicine course with hands of training in patient assessment and first aid treatment in outdoor settings. Obtained Wilderness Medicine certification.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Member- IUCN Species Survival Commission Lichen Specialist Group (2022)

Member- Southern California Botanists (2019-2020)

Member- The California Lichen Society (2020-2021)

Member- American Bryological and Lichenological Society (2021)

Member- Botanical Society of America (2021)