

Scrub Communities


Lecture 29

Learning Outcomes

- Northern Coastal Scrub
- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Allelopathy

Northern Coastal Scrub

- Coastal Bluffs
- Maritime Climate
- Salt affected soils
- Narrow, discontinuous strip from Oregon border S to Santa Barbara
- Some locations inland Mt Diablo Range



Northern Coastal Scrub Vegetation

- Shrub dominated vegetation
- Mixed with grassy meadows
- Shrubs 1 -5 feet
- Nine distinct subdivisions recognized by California dept Fish and Game



- Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*)
- Commonest member of Northern Coastal Scrub
- Present in most subdivisions
- Pioneer species colonizing disturbed habitats and grasslands
- Intolerant of shade

Coyote Brush Scrub



Blue Blossom Scrub

- Blue Blossom (*Ceanothus thrysiflorus*)
- Common following burning which triggers seed germination from seedbank



Coastal Bluff Scrub

- Greater wind and salt exposure
- Shrubs of shorter stature
- Coastal Buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*),
- Seaside Daisy (*Erigeron glauca*)
- Seaside Woolly Sunflower (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*)



California Sagebrush Scrub

- Coastal Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*)
ASTERACEAE
- Occupies drier sites with shallower soils than occupied by Coyote Brush
- Inland locations
- Intergrades with Coastal Sage Scrub



Indian Paintbrush

- Orobanchaceae (Scrophulariaceae)
- *Castilleja* species
- Hemiparasites
- Specialized roots penetrate roots of shrubs



Coastal Sage Scrub

- Southern Counterpart of Northern Coastal Scrub
- Southern Coastal Range Santa Barbara to Baja California



Soft Chaparral

- Along with Northern Coastal Scrub
- Shrubs have soft foliage
- Flexible twigs
- Lack spines/ thorns found in true chaparral
- E.g. Scrub Oak



Coastal Sage Scrub Flora

- Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*)
- Purple Sage (*S. leucophylla*)
- Wild Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)
- Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*)