

Dean W. Taylor Botanical Exploration Memorial Award

The aim of the Dean W Taylor Botanical Exploration Memorial Award is to help cover costs associated with botanical exploration in Northern California. This award is open to all people with an interest in the native plants and wildland ecology of Northern California, including practicing botanists, land managers, and dedicated herbarium collectors. We encourage projects that echo Dean Taylor's goals of finding unknown botanical diversity in California, namely collecting in under-collected areas and work to explore the habitat and range of known taxa and discover new taxa. After the completion of this project, you will be required to present either a lightning talk or poster on your findings at the following Northern California Botanist (NCB) symposium or write an article for the NCB newsletter. Awardees are encouraged to take photos of the surveyed area and plants collected for the newsletter article or presentation at an NCB Symposium.

Applicants must provide a short (1-2 pages) description of the proposed project, attach a budget for how funds from this award (up to \$500) will be spent, and attach a resume emphasizing your botanical experience. In the project description include the following:

1. Project location(s), including project area (in acres) and county
2. A description of your interest in this location
3. A link to the California Consortium of Herbaria specimen search results for the relevant 15-minute quadrangle(s) or for the relevant taxon, if applicable.
4. Which herbarium will be receiving specimens and confirmation that the herbarium knows they are getting the specimens.
5. Evidence that the appropriate permits will be obtained before work begins, if applicable.
6. Project timeline, including a description of the project deliverable(s).
7. Budget. Funds can be used for mileage, camping/lodging fees, plant presses and herbarium supplies. We do not cover rent, conference and associated travel fees, or purchase of permanent equipment (microscopes, cameras, or computers).

Remember the 1:20 rule for collecting; there needs to be at least 20 plants of that species present before you can dig one up for a plant specimen. There are numerous resources available in books and on the internet for collecting and preparing herbarium specimens, and for making the labels to go with them. Also, we have attached herbarium collection guidelines from College of the Redwoods classes as an example on the NCB website under the Dean Taylor Award application information. If you are unfamiliar with collection protocols, please contact the curator at the herbarium that will receive your specimens for their specific guidelines.

The California Consortium of Herbaria map of recorded specimens (<https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/about.html>) reveals the collection density in California. If your project involves collecting in an area with limited collection history,

please provide a copy of the map with your collection area highlighted, as well as a description of the collection locale.

Dean Taylor's map of Specimens Collected by County (which is on the NCB website under the Dean Taylor Award Application Information) allows for more generalized collection information -- this map details herbarium specimen collection rates relative to the mean collection rate. If your project involves collecting in a county with few existing specimens, please cite this map as well.

If your project involves collecting from multiple populations of the same taxon to determine habitat/range/phenotypic variation/co-occurring species, please include a link to the California Consortium of Herbaria database for that taxon, as well as a general description of the collection locales.

Applications need to be submitted to Northern California Botanists by November 1, 2026. The awards will be determined by mid- December and awardees will be subsequently notified. The awardees will also be announced at the NCB symposium in January and in the spring newsletter.

Projects that we have funded in the past through the Dean W. Taylor Botanical Exploration Memorial are listed under the current and past recipients tabs on our website at:

<https://norcalbotanists.org/scholarships/dean-w-taylor-botanical-exploration-memorial-award/>