



# Native Plants of the UCSB Shoreline

Coastal sand dunes are scattered along the California coastline from the Oregon border south to San Diego. Due to development, they are now very rare, and those that remain are highly degraded. They are dynamic habitats affected by wave action, tides, wind, and trampling. Dunes develop where there is a substantial amount of dry, wind-blown sand. Their formation is aided by pioneer dune species such as beach saltbush (*Atriplex leucophylla*), which capture and hold sand. Plants found on coastal sand dunes are mostly prostrate herbs with creeping stems and long fleshy taproots. They often have hairy, grayish leaves that are relatively small or succulent. These features help the plants tolerate drought, salt stress, sand abrasion, and intense sunlight.

## Threats

Rare dune species and dune structure are threatened locally by trampling and **invasive non-native plants**.



Ripgut Brome (*Bromus diandrus*)  
Competes for water and space



Sea Rocket (*Cakile maritima*)  
Competes in foredune areas



Ice Plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*)  
Forms smothering mats

## Native Foredune Plants



*Atriplex leucophylla*  
Beach Saltbush



*Ambrosia chamissonis*  
Beach-bur

## Native Dune Plants



*Calystegia soldanella*  
Beach Morning-glory



*Camissonia cheiranthifolia*  
Beach Evening Primrose



*Abronia maritima*  
Red Sand Verbena



*Amsinckia spectabilis* var. *spectabilis*  
Seaside Fiddleneck

## Native Backdune Plants



*Lupinus chamissonis*  
Silver Lupine



*Heliotropium curassavicum*  
Heliotrope



*Eschscholzia californica*  
California Poppy



*Distichlis spicata*  
Saltgrass



*Abronia umbellata*  
Beach Sand Verbena

## Native Coastal Bluff Plants



*Atriplex californica*  
California Saltbush



*Malacothrix saxatilis* var. *saxatilis*  
Seacliff Daisy



*Suaeda taxifolia*  
Woolly Sea-blite



*Antirrhinum nuttallianum* ssp. *subsessile*  
Nuttall's Snapdragon

Dune

Foredune

Backdune



Coastal  
Bluff