

Co-existence of Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) and Native Plants Along Coastal California. (S05-williamson133038-Poster)

Authors:

- T.N.Williamson* - *University of the Pacific*
- L.E.Moody - *California Polytechnic State University*

Abstract:

Perennial veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) was brought to California from southern Africa and Australia in the first half of the 20th century for use in hillslope and dune stability. By the 1990s, this bunchgrass had become an invasive wildland plant, responsible for conversion of native dune scrub to grassland. It has been targeted for eradication by managers along the California coast. We identified three coastal dune complexes in state parks where veldt grass is a concern: Torrey Pines (south coast), Montana de Oro (central coast), and Sonoma Coast (north coast). Together, these sites comprise the north-to-south range of veldt grass in California and will be used to assess water and nutrient availability in these environments. All sites share a mediterranean climate, but differ in total precipitation rates and temperature ranges. Coastal scrub communities are native to each location, however, plant species differ. Field observations show that veldt grass associates with native legumes, including deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*) and yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*). Initial results comparing topography, plant frequency, and surface soil characteristics will be presented.

Corresponding Author Information:

Tanja Williamson	phone: 209-946-7351
University of the Pacific	fax: 209-946-2362
Dept. of Geosciences 3601 Pacific Ave.	e-mail: twilliam@uop.edu
Stockton, CA 95211	

Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2002
Presentation Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Poster Board Number: 1617

Keywords:

non-native, dunes