

DANTHONIA CALIFORNICA OCCURRENCES IN A VERNALLY WET AREA AT JASPER RIDGE

[Distribution Map](#)

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Maps: Philip Dibner

D R A F T

Purpose was to record occurrences of *Danthonia californica* in a study area at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. "Occurrence" means either a single plant, or a cluster of individuals too close together to record separately.

Tools were a Trimble GeoXT handheld global positioning system receiver with Terrasync software; a meter measuring tape on a reel; varicolored electrical tape; wire flag pins

Study area boundary:

1. Sand Hill Road fence [between the northernmost fencepost of Main Gate and the SLAC power pole about 50m SSE from the intersection of road J and the fence]
2. Main Road [between the northernmost fencepost of Main Gate and the road's intersection with trail 18]
3. trail 18 [between its intersection with Main Road and a point about 80m SSE from its intersection with road J]
4. forest edge [between the SLAC power pole noted in no. 1 above, and the trail 18 point noted in no. 3 above]

Study area description: roughly Y-shaped; elevation varies between >110m and <140m according to contour lines shown by "Sector Map Book of Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve" March 2005.

Study area habitats according to "Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve: Vegetation" as revised November 6, 2012: California annual and perennial grassland (alliances not yet determined); Coyote brush scrub; Valley oak; Coast live oak woodland. Notes on and delineation of the [*Pleuropogon depression*](#), a [Locally Rare](#) taxon in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Method:

- Carried out over late spring and midsummer of 2013, when the plant was flowering
- Using a meter tape reel, two transects were laid parallel to each other 10m apart, between Sand Hill Road fence and Main Road, and between Sand Hill Road fence and trail 18. Tape marked fence ends of transects; wire flag pins marked road and trail ends.
- The first/reference transect was laid between the northern fencepost of Main Gate, and Main Road at its 90° bend about 80m ESE of Main Gate. All other transects were parallel to the first, so far as possible.
- Each measured transect was marked with wire flag pins before moving the meter tape to lay the next transect.
- To lay a transect, from its starting point I took three paces (my paces are about 2/3m), stopped, looked for oat grass through 360°, and recorded any occurrences with the Trimble. If an occurrence was more than a pace away from the transect line, I stepped closer to it to record, then returned to the transect line, and repeated: three paces/stop/observe through 360°/record.
- For every pair of measured and marked transects, I also walked a third transect halfway between the pair, guided by eye, using the same three paces/stop/observe through 360°/ record.

