

# **Combining Morphology and Genetic Distance to** Determine Species Delimitation in Castilleja Marina Malone<sup>1</sup>, Katie Wenzell<sup>2</sup>, Jeremie Fant<sup>2</sup>

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## Introduction

- Disagreement exists about the best criteria used to define species
- Morphology can be used, but it can be variable
- Genetic distance can be used to clarify relationship between groups
- In the group *Castilleja* (the Indian paintbrushes; Orobanchaceae), 3 varieties within *C. purpurea* were recently elevated to species based on morphological traits<sup>1</sup>
  - Species complex comprised of *C. purpurea*, *C. citrina*, and C. lindheimeri
- This project examines both the genetic makeup and floral morphology of *C. purpurea*, *C. citrina*, and *C. lindheimeri* to test if the genetic makeup of these populations agree with their morphological traits
- We also compare the *C. purpurea* complex species to *C*. *sessiliflora*, which occurs sympatrically and near-sympatrically in the region.

### Hypothesis

We expect genetic distance to reflect the pattern of morphological difference within the groups. We also expect *C. sessiliflora* to be more genetically distant from the *C. purpurea* complex.

### Methods

### **GENETICS:**

- Collected leaf tissue samples on 4 species, 2 populations each (except 1 pop. for *C. citrina*), 30 samples per population
- DNA extraction and amplification • CTAB extraction protocol and PCR (6 microsatellite loci)
- Individuals were genotyped with the Beckman CEQ 8000
- Genetic differentiation (Fst) between populations was calculated **MORPHOLOGY:**
- Collected floral data on 4 species, 1 population each (except 2 populations for *C. sessiliflora*), 10 samples per population (except 30 samples for *C. sessiliflora*)
- Measured floral morphology (ex: calyx lobe width, bract lobe width, stigma exsertion, corolla length and width, among others)
- Measured inflorescence color using RHS color charts, converted to RGB values

Nesom, G.L., and Egger, J.M. "Review of the Castilleja purpurea complex (Orobanchaceae)." Phytoneuron (2014): 1-16.





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