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James P. Smith Jr.  
*Humboldt State University*

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# THE VASCULAR PLANTS OF TRINIDAD HEAD, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

James P. Smith, Jr.  
Professor Emeritus of Botany  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Humboldt State University  
Arcata, California

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Trinidad Head is located 1.5 miles southwest of the City of Trinidad (N 41.0541, W -124.1505). It is composed of igneous rock surrounded by a Franciscan melange, with Pleistocene sands and gravel on top.

Trinidad Head is a sacred site for the Yurok People. It was later claimed for Spain in 1775 by Bruno de Heceta. It is the site of a global baseline atmospheric observatory operated by NOAA. In January 2017, President Obama added Trinidad Head to an expanded California Coastal National Monument.

## LYCOPHYTES & FERNS

### BLECHNACEAE • DEER FERN FAMILY

*Struthiopteris spicant* • deer fern

### DENNSTAEDTIACEAE • BRACKEN FERN FAMILY

*Pteridium aquilinum* • bracken fern

### DRYOPTERIDACEAE • SWORD FERN FAMILY

*Athyrium distentifolium* • lady fern

*Athyrium filix-femina* • lady fern

*Dryopteris arguta* • coastal wood fern

*Polystichum californicum* • shield fern

*Polystichum dudleyi* • Dudley's holly fern

*Polystichum munitum* • sword fern

### POLYPODIACEAE • POLYPODY FERN FAMILY

*Polypodium californicum* • California polypody

*Polypodium glycyrrhiza* • licorice fern

*Polypodium scolieri* • leather leaf

### PTERIDACEAE • CLIFF BRAKE FERN FAMILY

*Cheilanthes gracillima* • lace fern

*Cryptogramma crispera* • parsley fern

*Pentagramma triangularis* • goldenback fern

### SELAGINELLACEAE • SPIKE-MOSS FAMILY

*Selaginella wallacei* • Wallace's spike-moss

## CONIFERS

### CUPRESSACEAE • CYPRESS FAMILY

*Sequoia sempervirens* • coast redwood

### PINACEAE • PINE FAMILY

*Abies grandis* • grand fir

*Picea sitchensis* • Sitka spruce

*Pinus contorta* • beach pine

*Pinus radiata* • Monterey pine

*Pseudotsuga menziesii* • Douglas-fir

## FLOWERING PLANTS

### AIZOACEAE • ICE PLANT FAMILY

*Carpobrotus chilensis* • sea-fig, ice plant

### ANACARDIACEAE • CASHEW FAMILY

*Toxicodendron diversilobum* • poison-oak

### APOCYNACEAE • DOGBANE FAMILY

*Vinca major* • periwinkle

### ARISTOLOCHIACEAE • BIRTHWORT FAMILY

*Asarum caudatum* • wild ginger

### BETULACEAE • BIRCH FAMILY

*Alnus rubra* • red alder

### BORAGINACEAE • BORAGE FAMILY

*Myosotis* sp. • forget-me-not

### CAPRIFOLIACEAE • HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY

*Lonicera involucrata* var. *ledebourii* • twinberry

*Sambucus racemosa* var. *racemosa* • red elderberry

### CARYOPHYLLACEAE • CARNATION FAMILY

*Cerastium glomeratum* • mouse-ear chickweed

*Silene gallica* • campion, catchfly

*Spergula arvensis* • corn spurrey

*Stellaria media* • chickweed

### COMPOSITAE • DAISY OR ASTER FAMILY

*Achillea millefolium* • yarrow  
*Anaphalis margaritacea* • pearly everlasting  
*Artemisia* sp. • wormwood  
*Baccharis pilularis* var. *consanguinea* • coyote brush  
*Bellis perennis* • English daisy, lawn daisy  
*Cirsium brevistylum* • thistle  
*Cirsium vulgare* • bull or common thistle  
*Conyza canadensis* • mare's tail  
*Erigeron glaucus* • fleabane  
*Gamochaeta purpurea* • cudweed  
*Gamochaeta ustulata* • feather weed  
*Gnaphalium chilense* • cudweed  
*Leontodon saxitilis* ssp. *saxitilis* • hairy hawkbit  
*Leucanthemum vulgare* • ox-eyed daisy  
*Pseudognaphalium stramineum* • cotton batting plant  
*Senecio glomeratus* • cut-leaved fire weed  
*Senecio minimus* • coastal fire weed  
*Solidago lepida* var. *salebrosa* • meadow groundsel  
*Sonchus asper* • prickly sow-thistle  
*Sonchus oleraceus* • common sow-thistle  
*Taraxacum officinale* • dandelion

#### **CRASSULACEAE • STONECROP FAMILY**

*Sedum spathulifolium* • yellow stonecrop

#### **CRUCIFERAE • MUSTARD FAMILY**

*Barbarea verna* • winter cress, golden rockets  
*Brassica rapa* • black mustard  
*Capsella bursa-pastoris* • shepherd's purse  
*Cardamine californica* • California toothwort  
*Cardamine oligosperma* • bitter cress  
*Lobularia maritima* • sweet alyssum  
*Raphanus sativus* • wild radish  
*Sisymbrium officinale* • tumble mustard

#### **CUCURBITACEAE • GOURD FAMILY**

*Marah oreganus* • man root

#### **ERICACEAE • HEATH FAMILY**

*Arctostaphylos columbiana* • Columbia manzanita  
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* • bear berry  
*Gaultheria shallon* • salal  
*Vaccinium ovatum* • huckleberry

#### **GARRYACEAE • SILK-TASSEL FAMILY**

*Garrya elliptica* • silk-tassel

#### **GENTIANACEAE • GENTIAN FAMILY**

*Centaurium trichanthum* • alkali centaury

#### **GERANIACEAE • GERANIUM FAMILY**

*Geranium carolinianum* • Carolina geranium  
*Geranium molle* • dove's-foot geranium  
*Geranium retrorsum* • New Zealand geranium

#### **GRAMINEAE • GRASS FAMILY**

*Agrostis hallii* • Hall's bent grass  
*Aira caryophyllea* • silver hair grass  
*Aira praecox* • little hair grass  
*Ammophila arenaria* • European beach grass  
*Anthoxanthum odoratum* • sweet vernal grass  
*Briza maxima* • big rattlesnake grass

*Briza minor* • little rattlesnake grass  
*Bromus catharticus* • rescue brome  
*Bromus hordeaceus* ssp. *hordeaceus* • soft brome  
*Calamagrostis nutkaensis* • Pacific reed grass  
*Cortaderia selloana* • pampas grass  
*Cynosurus echinatus* • hedgehog dogtail grass  
*Dactylis glomerata* • orchard grass  
*Deschampsia caespitosa* • tufted hair grass  
*Distichlis spicata* • salt grass  
*Elymus glaucus* • blue wild-rye  
*Elymus mollis* • American dune grass  
*Festuca arundinacea* • tall fescue  
*Festuca bromoides* • brome six-week's grass  
*Festuca perenne* • rye grass  
*Festuca rubra* • red fescue  
*Holcus lanatus* • velvet grass  
*Hordeum brachyantherum* • foxtail barley  
*Poa annua* • annual blue grass, winter grass  
*Poa douglasii* • seashore blue grass  
*Rytidosperma biannulare* • hairy oat grass

#### **GROSSULARIACEAE • GOOSEBERRY FAMILY**

*Ribes menziesii* • canyon gooseberry  
*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum* • gooseberry

#### **HYPERICACEAE • ST. JOHN'S WORT FAMILY**

*Hypericum perforatum* • Klamath weed

#### **HYDROPHYLLACEAE • WATERLEAF FAMILY**

*Nemophila menziesii* var. *menziesii* • baby blue-eyes  
*Romanzoffia tracyi* • Tracy's romanzoffia

#### **IRIDACEAE • IRIS FAMILY**

*Iris douglasiana* • Douglas' iris

#### **JUNCACEAE • RUSH FAMILY**

*Juncus bufonius* • toad rush  
*Luzula comosa* • Pacific wood rush  
*Luzula subsessilis* • wood rush

#### **LABIATAE • MINT FAMILY**

*Stachys bullata* • hedge-nettle  
*Stachys mexicana* • Emerson's hedge-nettle

#### **LEGUMINOSAE • LEGUME OR BEAN FAMILY**

*Cytisus scoparius* • Scotch broom  
*Lotus corniculatus* • bird's-foot trefoil  
*Lupinus arboreus* • yellow-flowered bush lupine  
*Lupinus rivularis* • riverbank lupine  
*Trifolium dubium* • suckling clover  
*Trifolium repens* • white clover  
*Trifolium wormskioldii* • coast clover  
*Vicia benghalensis* • purple vetch  
*Vicia gigantea* • giant vetch  
*Vicia sativa* • common vetch

#### **LILIACEAE • LILY FAMILY**

*Calochortus tolmiei* • pussy-ears  
*Lilium columbianum* • Columbia lily  
*Lilium occidentale* • western lily  
*Maianthemum dilatatum* • false lily-of-the-valley  
*Prosartes smithii* • large-flower fairy bells

*Trillium ovatum* • western wake robin  
*Triteleia laxa* • Ithuriel's spear

**LINACEAE • FLAX FAMILY**

*Linum bienne* • narrow-leaved flax

**MYRICACEAE • WAX-MYRTLE FAMILY**

*Morella californica* • California wax-myrtle

**NYCTAGINACEAE • FOUR O'CLOCK FAMILY**

*Abronia latifolia* • yellow sand-verbena

**ONAGRACEAE • EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY**

*Chamerion angustifolium* • fire weed  
*Epilobium ciliatum* ssp. *watsonii* • willow herb

**PLANTAGINACEAE • PLANTAGO FAMILY**

*Plantago lanceolata* • English plantain  
*Plantago maritima* var. *californica* • California plantain

**PLUMBAGINACEAE • LEADWORT FAMILY**

*Armeria maritima* • sea thrift

**POLEMONIACEAE • PHLOX FAMILY**

*Collomia heterophylla* • varied-leaved collomia  
*Gilia tricolor* • bird's-eye  
*Navarretia squarrosa* • skunk weed

**POLYGONACEAE • KNOTWEED FAMILY**

*Rumex acetosella* • sheep-sorrel

**PORTULACACEAE • PURSLANE FAMILY**

*Claytonia perfoliata* ssp. *perfoliata* • miner's-lettuce  
*Claytonia siberica* • spring beauty

**PRIMULACEAE • PRIMROSE FAMILY**

*Anagallis arvensis* • scarlet pimpernel  
*Trientalis borealis* ssp. *latifolia* • star flower

**RHAMNACEAE • BUCKTHORN FAMILY**

*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* • California blue blossom  
*Frangula purshiana* • cascara sagrada

**ROSACEAE • ROSE FAMILY**

*Cotoneaster lacteus* • late cotoneaster  
*Fragaria chiloensis* • beach or Chilean strawberry  
*Fragaria vesca* • strawberry  
*Holodiscus discolor* • ocean spray  
*Rubus aremeniacus* • Himalaya berry  
*Rubus parviflorus* • western thimble berry  
*Rubus spectabilis* • Salmon berry  
*Rubus ursinus* var. *ursinus* • California black berry

**RUBIACEAE • BEDSTRAW FAMILY**

*Galium aparine* • bedstraw

**SALICACEAE • WILLOW FAMILY**

*Salix* sp. • willow

**SAXIFRAGACEAE • SAXIFRAGE FAMILY**

*Tellima grandiflora* • fringe cups

**SCROPHULARIACEAE • FIGWORT FAMILY**

*Castilleja affinis* ssp. *litoralis* • coast paintbrush  
*Collinsia heterophylla* • Chinese houses  
*Mimulus aurantiacus* • bush monkey flower  
*Mimulus guttatus* • seep monkey flower  
*Parentucellia viscosa* • yellow gland weed  
*Scrophularia californica* • California bee plant  
*Veronica californica* • snow queen

**SOLANACEAE • NIGHTSHADE FAMILY**

*Solanum americanum* • American nightshade  
*Solanum aviculare* • kangaroo-apple  
*Solanum furcatum* • forked nightshade  
*Solanum nodiflorum* • white nightshade

**UMBELLIFERAE • CARROT FAMILY**

*Angelica lucida* • sea coast angelica  
*Daucus carota* • Queen Anne's lace  
*Daucus pusillus* • rattlesnake weed  
*Heracleum lanatum* • cow parsnip  
*Sanicula arctopoides* • beach sanicle  
*Sanicula crassicaulis* • golden meadow sanicle  
*Torilis arvensis* • knotted hedge-parsley

**URTICACEAE • NETTLE FAMILY**

*Urtica dioica* var. *gracilis* • stinging nettle

**VIOLACEAE • VIOLET FAMILY**

*Viola adunca* var. *adunca* • western dog violet  
*Viola sempervirens* • redwood violet

**VITACEAE • GRAPE FAMILY**

*Vitis californica* • California grape

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**NOTES**

This checklist is based primarily on two prepared by Pat Daly (1986) and Michael Roantree (1987). I have added several plants that I encountered on the trail around Trinidad Head and others cited in the Consortium of California Herbaria. I have also added common names and updated family concepts and scientific names.