

Interpretive Photospheres For Environmental Inquiry on the SSU Campus: Slender Salamander Habitat

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Abstract: We used video taken with a smart phone camera to create a photosphere in three sections, which we then annotated with information about the plants and animals that can be found in our local area. We filmed an area that shows the Art Building and Art Pond on the Sonoma State University campus, where we found slender salamanders. We photographed some of the plants and wildlife in the area, and uploaded those photos to iNaturalist to confirm the identifications. We then created the photosphere using the Google Street View application, annotated it with profiles of some of the species found at this location, and uploaded this footage to a website to be viewed by the public. This project contributes to the knowledge of wildlife and plants that can be found on the Sonoma State campus.

Materials & Methods

Equipment:

- We used Google Street View to Capture our photospheres using iPhone 12.
- Once the video was complete, we annotated our videos with photographs and species profiles for some of the organisms that can be found on this part of Sonoma State University campus.

Figure 1: Salamander Photosphere behind Art Building



Figure 2: California Slender Salamander



Batrachoseps attenuatus, also known as the California Slender Salamander, is native to California, mostly found around the Bay Area. This Salamander is completely lungless and breathes only through its skin. Its tail can grow to be twice as long as their snout.

Figure 3: Cut-Leaved Crane's-Bill



Geranium dissectum, more commonly known as Cut-leaved Crane's-Bill, is a small flowering plant that is native to Europe. It's rarely found in rich pastures. Instead, this plant seems to prefer areas with thin grasses where the soil has recently been disturbed.

Figure 4: Dandelion



Taraxacum officinale, more commonly known as the Dandelion, is native to Eurasia and North America. This flower is said to represent three celestial bodies during the different phases of its life cycle: the sun, moon, and stars.

Figure 5: Wild Radish



Raphanus sativus, more commonly known as Wild Radish, is native to Eurasia. The wild radish is entirely edible, with a peppery and earthy flavor, like those of the common cultivated radish.