

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING Tuesday, May 18, 7 p.m. Casa del Prado, Room 104

Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Preserve by Carol Crafts

Carol Crafts, President of the Friends of Goodan Ranch, will lead a virtual tour of the varied and rugged terrain of the preserve that supports some of southern California's prominent and familiar plant communities. When you head south along Sycamore Canyon Road from Poway you will leave the busy world of our every day lives and find an oasis of history and peacefulness. The preserve offers opportunities to use your zoom lens as there are many birds and "belly flowers" to find and enjoy. San Diego thornmint and other sensitive plants survive in hidden pockets. Much of the preserve is recovering from the Cedar Fire of 2003, which destroyed the Goodan family's stone house.

~ Claude Edwards, Programs Chair

Natives for Novices Presentation, 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. All About Arctostaphylos by Valerie Phillips of Las Pilitas Nursery.

7:00-7:30: Browse books, get a native plant identified, enjoy refreshments, and find out how you can become more involved.

7:30-8:30: Business meeting and presentation. Chapter meetings are open to the public and are free. They are held the third Tuesday of each month (except August) in Casa del Prado Room 104, just west of the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

VERNAL POOL SPECIALISTS

Vernal pools exist in the region of San Diego County and nearby Baja California. As most people know, they are shallow ponds that fill with winter rainwater and dry out during the summer. During the spring when the pools are full until after they dry, an entire array of plants and animals make them their home including unique species of plants. Several plants that live in vernal pools are of interest, but a couple of groups of plants are particularly fascinating, botanically speaking: the genera *Pogogyne* (mesa mints) and *Brodiaea*.

The genus *Pogogyne* consists of nine taxa within the California Floristic Province, including one thought to be extinct on Guadalupe Island and one undescribed species from Valle de las Palmas in Baja California. Three species of *Pogogyne* occur in the San Diego vicinity: P. abramsii, P. nudiuscula and the unnamed species from Valle De Las Palmas south of Tecate. All three grow in the bottom of vernal pools, germinating only after being submerged for a period of time, and growing and flowering after the pools evaporate and the soil dries, usually in May. Originally, in 1876, all of the plants from the San Diego region were assigned the name Pogogyne nudiuscula. However, it was noted that populations in the northern part of the range were covered with small hairs. Additional differences are that the inflorescences are also smaller for the northern plants and they have a different overall aspect. Pogogyne abramsii was then described by John Thomas Howell as a separate species. At one time, *P.* nudiuscula occurred in the southern portions of the City of San Diego and appeared to overlap with the distribution of P. abramsii. At present, P. nudiuscula exists in a very few vernal pool complexes on Otay Mesa (cont. on p. 2)

VEEP SPEAKS

How to Volunteer and Enjoy It (Guidelines adapted from San Diego Friends of Tibet)

- 1. The CNPS mission is to encourage appreciation, conservation and knowledge about native plants. As you work with other volunteers from this sense of purpose, the results can be a source of satisfaction.
- 2. As a volunteer, do what you love, and encourage others to show up to do the rest. No one has to meet any arbitrary standard of performance: do your best, and accept that others are also doing their best. If it goes well, you and others will become more skillful.
- 3. Approach your volunteer experience consciously. Practice self-observation. Expect to experience challenges and hope these will yield personal growth.
- 4. Each person brings their own values and desires, and we work together better by building on common values while graciously accepting others' differences.
- 5. Our tasks are clarified when we tell the truth as we see it and ask questions as needed. Conflict and competition are reduced by this kind of open communication. Avoid automatic reactions or becoming polarized. Seek to find the solution that lets the group achieve, together.
- 6. Enjoy your and others' achievements. There is no financial compensation. The purpose of your volunteering is to satisfy your own needs.
- 7. A sense of humor works wonders. Helping other volunteers lighten up makes the work easier.
- 8. You're a volunteer. If it's not fun anymore, you are under no obligation to continue.

~ Kay Stewart, Vice President

BOARD NOTES

At our April meeting, the board approved the 2010 Chapter budget. In summary, the Board budgeted to spend \$40,439 this year. Of that, the chapter will give to our sister organizations: S.D. Natural History Museum Plant Atlas, \$1,000; Canyonlands \$1,200; and Aquatic Adventures \$800. The largest Committee budgets were: Gardening, \$1,500; Newsletter, \$6,500; Outreach, \$1,200; and Programs, \$1,200. In other news, the Board discussed convening quarterly chapter meetings at satellite locations such as Escondido and Fallbrook, in addition to the regular monthly meetings.

~ Tom Beltran, Secretary

BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet on Wednesday, **May 5** at 6:30 at the San Diego Audubon office at **4010 Morena Boulevard**, **Suite 100**. From the I-5, exit Balboa east and turn north on Morena.

Brodiaea filifolia by Fred Roberts



(Vernal Pool Specialists cont. from p. 1)

and *P. abramsii* occurs on the Miramar Mounds National Natural Landmark, some locations around Mira Mesa, and portions of Kearney Mesa.Both *P. abramsii* and *P. nudiuscula* are listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The unnamed plants grow on a small mesa on the slope of Cerro Bola, on the south side of Valle de las Palmas within sight of native fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*), on the west side of the Peninsular Ranges of the Sierra Juarez. The Valle de las Palmas plants are threatened by clay mining activities. All three of these *Pogogyne* species are found nowhere else in the world.

Vernal pools in this region are also inhabited by three Brodiaea species: B. orcuttii (Orcutt's brodiaea), B. terrestris ssp. kernensis (Kern dwarf brodiaea), and B. filifolia (thread-leaved brodiaea). These three showy purple and blue flowered species represent three stages in the evolution of the genus *Brodiaea*. *B. terrestris* ssp. kernensis has flowers with large stamenodia, structures that appear to be vestigial supports for stamens. *B. filifolia* has smaller, threadlike stamenodia and B. orcuttii has no stamenodia at all. B. filifolia grows on clay soils and vernal pools on the Santa Rosa Plateau, portions of northern San Diego County, and in San Marcos in vernal pools. It has been listed as threatened by the U.S. Department of Interior and endangered by the state of California. B. orcuttii grows in vernal pools on the northern mesas of San Diego as well as along stream courses in the foothills and coastal regions. B. terrestris ssp. kernensis occurs on Otay Mesa within vernal pools, but also in the foothills of San Diego County. The *Brodiaea* species also flower in May though they may not flower at all if the winter rains are not great enough.

San Diego County is one of the biologically most diverse locations in North America, and these vernal pool species are just a few indicators of that fact.

~ Tom Oberbauer

Flora Fora: San Diego Chapter's New Online Native Gardening & Plant ID Forum

Have you ever had a Native gardening question that you always forget to ask at the monthly meetings, or a plant that you couldn't identify? Well, now the San Diego Chapter of CNPS has a venue for all your questions: Flora Fora, the Chapter's new, online forum! A link can be found in the column on the right hand side of the San Diego chapter's website (www.cnpssd.org) or directly at www.forum.cnpssd.org.

Like most online forums, you must be a registered user to post a question or comment on a post. Registration is very simple and similar to starting an email account. You can find the "Register" button on the top right-hand corner of the Forum's homepage. Many native plant experts are already active members of the forum, such as **Morgan Vondrak** (Argia Designs), **Jeremy Sison** (Artemisia Landscape Design), **Wes Hudson** of (North Park Native Plants), **Greg Rubin** (California's Own) and others.

To make correspondence easier, fill out your profile and preferences to the fullest. Most importantly, click "yes" when asked if you would like an email notice when someone posts a response to a topic that you have posted or commented on.

Also, please do a search before you post. The topic or plant may have already been discussed, answered and/or identified. Also, before

you post a plant ID question refer to the template and example titled: "How to post an ID request". It contains the info that will make it easier for others to identify your plant such as:

- General structure of plant (tree, shrub, perennial, etc.).
- Where the plant was found.
- •Type of leaf or flower, etc.

It also demonstrates the best way to take a photo of the plant to be identified.

So please join Flora Fora and use it. Now there is no excuse for not knowing the answer to that native gardening question or for not knowing the name of that mystery plant who's photo is stuck in a computer file titled "Unknown".

MEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Kay Stewart, Field Trip Chair

Each CNPS member may bring a guest. Non-members who are not guests are welcome if they join CNPS at the beginning of the field trip. Members' field trips are slow-moving because we focus on identification of as many plants as possible. Bring sun protection, trail shoes, and plenty of water. To guarantee a spot in the field trip, RSVP to fieldtrips@cnpssd.org, leave your cell phone number, and where you plan to meet the group, if options are offered.

Sunday, May 2: Lakeside Ceanothus & Grassland Restoration, Crestridge Ecol. Preserve. 1 to 4 p.m. We will explore this 3,000-acre preserve in the rocky foothills east of El Cajon. The preserve protects magnificent stands of Ceanothus cyaneus and Acanthomintha ilicifolia. Botanist Patricia Gordon-Reedy will guide our group to several sites, and Cathy Chadwick, Director of the preserve's caretaker group, the Earth Discovery Institute, will be our host for the afternoon. We will walk the lower portions of the preserve to observe a five-acre native grassland restoration project and a mature Engelmann Oak grove, as well as other native plant associations.

Then we will caravan/drive to a trailhead to access a different part of the preserve. Meet at the entrance on Horsemill Rd. Exit I-8 at Greenfield Rd, after 1/2 mile turn left on La Cresta Rd; after 3.5 miles turn left on Mountain View; after 1 mile, turn left on Horsemill Rd. to the end.

Sunday, May 9: Upper Cedar Creek Gorge. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Self-guided botanical ID. Trail guide: Cindy Buxton. Cedar Creek is a perennial stream that cascades from William Heise County Park for 9 miles and spills over spectacular Cedar Falls to join the San Diego River. We will explore the upper reaches near Sunshine Mountain, starting from the trailhead used to access Eagle Pk.

We will view the forest recovery since the terrible 2003 Cedar fires, which were started nearby at Kester Flat. The group will conduct an informal plant survey as we walk at least three miles with significant elevation changes. The length of the hike will vary depending upon the interests of the group. We might also explore the gorge from Boulder Creek Road at a place called the Dancehall. We will use a tentative plant list derived from the San Diego Natural History Museum Plant Atlas database as a guide for our plant identification.

Meet 9 a.m. at the I-8/SR-79 Park'n'Ride at the Japatul/SR-79/Descanso exit. We will caravan a long way up Boulder Creek Road to arrive at the trailhead around 9:30. Contact the field trip chair for more details. For those who want to ride-share from coastal San Diego, meet at 8 a.m. at the I-8/Los Coches Road Park'n'Ride, near the WalMart.

Sunday, May 16: Poway Grasslands. 9 a.m. to noon. Botanical leader will be Kirsten Winter, Cleveland Forest Biologist. At the foot of Mount Woodson a small valley fans out toward the west with some of the prettiest grasslands remaining on the foothills. Most grasslands have been lost to housing tracts, but Kirsten will share one that remains with us. The trip will feature native grassland, coastal sage scrub, spring wildflowers, and local succulents, such as coast barrel cactus (*Ferocactus viridescens*) and possibly variegated live-forever (*Dudleya variegata*).

These grasslands sustain both perennial bunch and sod grasses and annual grasses, as well as flowering forbs and bulbs. The temperature and rainfall in any given year dictate how long grasslands will flower before going to seed. We hope that mid-May will be a great time to find many species in both seed and in flower. Bring a hand lens to study the beautiful, almost microscopic, parts that distinguish one taxon of grass from another.

Meet at 9 a.m. at 12951 Metate Lane, east of Palomar Road, by the Palomar Family Counseling Center. From I-15, go east on Poway Road to Pomerado Road; south on Pomerado Road to Metate Lane; east on Metate Lane to the parking area. The parking area is on the south side of Metate Lane about ¼ mile west of its intersection with Community Road. Thos Bros p 1190, E5.

PUBLIC PLANT WALKS

The rains came back this year, bringing a show of flowers that we haven't seen in a while. There are still opportunities to enjoy the blooms with one of the public plant hikes. All walks start at **10 a.m.** and last about 90 minutes. The terrain is easy to moderate. As always bring sturdy shoes, water, and sunscreen.

May 1. 47th Street Canyon (City Heights): Deborah Benson and Paul Hormick lead. From SR-94 exit north on Euclid. In about three miles Euclid bears to the left. Meet just north of the intersection of Euclid and Home Avenues, just past the City Farmer's Nursery (Thomas Guide 1269, J7).

May 8. Cedar Ridge (South Park): Betsy Cory and Elizabeth Wilkinson lead. From I-805, exit University Blvd. west, turn south on 30th Street, turn east on Juniper and at end, turn south on Pentuckett Ave. Meet at end of road. (Thomas Guide 1289, F2).

May 15. Tecolote Canyon (Bay Park): Deborah Benson and Frank Landis lead. Exit I-5 east at SeaWorld Drive/Tecolote Road; continue past the cul de sac to the Tecolote Nature Center at the end of the parking lot (Thomas Guide 1268 E2).

May 22. Torrey Pines Extension (Del Mar): Adrienne Heinzelman and Dave Flietner lead. Exit I-5 west at Del Mar Heights; left on Mar Scenic Drive. Meet at the end of Mar Scenic Dr. (Thomas Guide 1187—H6).

If you have questions, call **Paul Hormick** at 619-297-2957.

MONTHLY TECOLOTE CANYON WALK

May 2. 9:00-11:30 a.m. Kay Stewart will lead this walk. Meet at the Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, at the end of Tecolote Road, past all the ball fields. The walk is repeated the first Sunday of every month, therefore: June 6, July 4, August 1, etc.

CONSERVATION UPDATE

San Diego's stormwater EIR goes to the City Council on May 13 for final approval. While the current draft is a mild improvement, we want the city to focus on less costly, environmentally benign and less costly for maintaining our stormwater infrastructure. The current proposal is to clear the channels so that everything flows straight into the ocean.

Solar Two, the massive solar project south of Anza Borrego, is still proceeding. CNPS has petitioned to become an intervenor on the project, which means that if the project proceeds, we should have some ability to intervene to protect native plants and native vegetation. The current project proposal has shrunk, and it now excludes some (not all!) of the most environmentally sensitive areas it would have originally covered. However, there are still major issues. Although the project proponents want it approved quickly, they still have botanists in the field documenting rare plants and plant communities. CNPS is urging the state not to approve this project until we know what impacts it will cause, and have a good plan in place to avoid or mitigate them.

The CNPS Conservation Committee was one of many groups that produced the Environmental Report Card, which graded the 2009 voting record of San Diego's elected officials. The report was published in March and is available at www.cnpssd.org. We will be doing this again in 2011. Here are the council's and mayor's grades, and feel free to congratulate them or encourage them to improve!

District 1: Sherri Lightner	C
District 2: Kevin Faulconer	D
District 3: Todd Gloria	A-
Dist. 4: Tony Young	D
Dist. 5: Carl DeMaio	F
Dist. 6: Donna Frye	Α
Dist. 7: Marti Emerald	C-
Dist. 8: Ben Hueso	C-
Mayor Jerry Sanders	

At the March 13 meeting, the CNPS Chapter Council approved a fire policy for CNPS as a whole. CNPS will use this policy to help agencies and insurance companies update their vegetation management policies to simultaneously protect people and conserve native plants.

~ Frank Landis. Conservation Committee

VEGETATION SURVEYS

Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m. Join us at Viejas Mountain for our next vegetation survey. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Starbucks parking lot in Alpine (2963 Alpine Blvd.). To get there from west of Alpine, take I-8 east and exit at Tavern Rd. (Exit 30) toward Alpine, turn right onto Tavern Rd., and left at Alpine Blvd. The parking lot is 1.7 miles east of Tavern Rd. on Alpine Blvd. From here, we will caravan to our survey location. The survey will take place on Cleveland National Forest land; therefore Adventure Passes will need to be displayed in vehicles that park onsite. Please RSVP by Friday, May 21 and say if you have an Adventure Pass. Survey events are free and open to the public (although CNPS membership is encouraged!). Light snacks and beverages are provided for volunteers. If you are interested, we could use your help, regardless of your experience. To RSVP or request more information, email vegetation@cnpssd.org or you may call **Anna Bennett** at (559)443-9233.



Vegetation Survey: San Miguel Mountain, March 27. From left: John Martin, Scott Jones, Brad Burkhart, David Varner, Bob Greenberg, and Anna Bennett.

SAVE A TREE!

Members can receive this newsletter digitally. Not only do you save a tree, you save the chapter the cost of printing and mailing. Email the info on your mailing label to: enewsletter@cnpssd.org

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

Use a credit card. As an option, set it up to **renew** automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs. Visit the CNPS website at: www.CNPS.org

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Our Chapter will participate in two fun outreach events in May. We will be teaching kids about native butterflies and their host plants, telling their parents how to bring them into their home landscapes, and networking with other environmentally-aware organizations. Please join us in doing this by helping represent CNPS at our booths: sign up (or show up!) today to help at one of the following events:

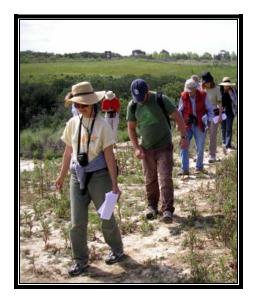
- Sage and Songbirds Festival in Alpine (Saturday & Sunday May 1-2)
- Explore Mission Trails Day (Sunday May 15)

These are wonderful opportunities to interact with other members and inform the public about the benefits of native plants and CNPS! Please contact **David Varner** to learn how you can participate: outreach@cnpssd.org or 619-630-4591.

RARE PLANT SURVEYS

Our focus this spring is on surveying populations of the endangered San Diego Thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*). On April 3, 28 volunteers showed up for a training session led by Jessie Vinje of the Center for Natural Lands Management. We got to see the thornmint both as seedlings and in bloom. Due to the cool winter and spring, the thornmint season was late this year, and it was only starting to bloom in Carlsbad when the training was held. In addition to learning to identify the thornmints, we also learned to identify the other plant species that live with it, some of which are also rare, along with learning to identify the distinctive clay formations that are the thornmints' preferred habitat.

Volunteers at the April 3 training to learn to spot SD thornmint in its natural habitat.



Teams of rare plant surveyors headed out across the county throughout April and into May. Since the thornmint is endangered, we did not collect specimens. Our job this spring was to collect data and take pictures. Next month, we will tell you what we found.

~ Frank Landis, Rare Plant Surveys Chair

SPRING PLANT SALE A SMASH!

Tree of Life (TOL) Nursery's March 13 native plant sale raised over \$1,900 for our chapter. Sales were up 80% over last year, to about \$9500, and TOL generously donated 20% of the proceeds. Chapter members **Debbie Evans, Connie Beck, Cindy Burrascano, Pete di Girolamo, Susan Marchetti, Kristen Olafson,** and **Amy Huie** pitched in to make the event a success by recruiting volunteers, advertising the event, and acting as sales consultants. Special thanks go to Connie Beck, whose talk on butterfly gardening caused an immediate run on all the plants she featured. Luckily, the TOL staff kept bringing more plant to the sales area, so everyone went away happy. Thanks also to all our members who made the drive up and bought more plants for their gardens.

FALL PLANT SALE

The fall plant sale will be **Saturday, October 16**. The plant sale committee is looking for volunteers. No plant experience necessary, just organized individuals with good communication skills. E-mail plantsale@cnpssd.org if you are interested in the following:

Home Growers: Member grown plants increase profits, enabling CNPS to protect more native plants and their habitats. Perhaps you have some plants on your property that can be re-potted or propagated from cuttings? If you are a novice at propagation, see the CNPS website for a complete listing of resources, or e-mail our experienced members with your questions on how to get started.

Seed and Bulb Team: Help collect and/or package seeds and bulbs!

Comments Wanted: Do you have any ideas that would help us improve our fall plant sale? What plants do you really want to buy at the plant sale? How can we make things easier for customers at the sale?

~ Plant Sale Committee

INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL GROUP

Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. to noon. We will continue to focus on tools for controlling invasive weeds for habitat restoration and fire prevention. We try to touch on all aspects from evaluation/planning, laws/regulations, techniques, to ongoing maintenance. All members are welcome. We meet once a month but other times may be arranged to fit your schedule. Boots, long pants and long sleeves are required; eye protection is optional. Meet at 17269 Silver Gum Way (TG 1169-D2) in west Rancho Bernardo. Contact **Arne Johanson** for gate code & further info: invasiveplants@cnpssd.org.

PROPAGATION GROUP

Wouldn't it be great if CNPS could work with the San Diego City nursery and grow lots and lots of native plants for the parks and open spaces? Maybe extra plants could go to local restoration projects and our plant sale. **Alan Bennett** thought so and brought this idea to the CNPS president and board who gave him their enthusiastic support. In December the nursery staff and several CNPS volunteers met to start this cooperative effort. The first work day was held on January 26 at the City's nursery in Balboa Park. Dozens of cuttings were started. Three subsequent meetings have led to propagation of bladderpod, sages, buckwheats, and several other favorite native plants.



The core work group: Alan Bennett (with shovel); Chet Nelson, Jim Waldman and Brad Burkhart; Connie Beck and Judy Dunning. Photo by Michelle Pickett.

If you have propagation skills you would like to share or if you are interested in learning more about propagation, we'd love to have you! Contact propagation@cnpssd.org.

GARDENING GROUP MEETING

If you want to get involved in promoting the use and awareness of native plants through gardening, attend the next meeting of the Native Gardening group on **Wednesday, May 12** at **7 p.m.** at the home of **Pete di Girolamo** at **2440 Pamo**, in North Park, San Diego. The meeting will be of special interest to members in that area because we will discuss progress on the North Park community native plant garden, as well as school gardens, Plants in Public Places, and other group activities. No need to call in advance; for questions, please contact me. ~ **Dave Flietner**, Gardening Chair

GARDEN WORK PARTIES

Old Town State Park Native Garden: Saturday, May 8, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Rain cancels. Please weeding tools, hand pruners, loppers and gloves. A drinking fountain is on site. The garden is located at the western edge of Old Town State Park, across from the Trolley station at Taylor and Congress Streets. Park at the west end of the free State Park parking lot, between the garden and Calhoun Street.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: May 1 and 16, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Rain cancels. Bring water; No facilities on site. Tools and supplies provided. Always the first Saturday and third Sunday of the month. Email Richard@sandiegoriver.org for more info.

CALENDAR

5/1: 47th Street Canyon Public Plant Walk (p. 4)

5/1: Invasive Plant Control (p. 7)

5/1: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 7)

5/01-02: Sage and Songbirds Festival (p. 6)

5/2: Crestridge Ecol. Preserve Field Trip (p. 3)

5/2: Monthly Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 5)

5/5: Board Meeting (p. 2)

5/8: Cedar Ridge Public Plant Walk (p. 4)

5/8: Old Town Work Party (p. 7)

5/9: Upper Cedar Creek Gorge Field Trip (p. 3)

5/12: Gardening Committee Meeting (p. 7)

5/15. Tecolote Canyon Public Plant Walk (p. 4)

5/15: Mission Trails Day (p. 6)

5/16: Poway Grasslands Field Trip (p. 4)

5/16: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 7)

5/18: Chapter Meeting (p. 1)

5/22: Torrey Pines Ext. Public Plant Walk (p. 4)

5/22: Vegetation Surveys Viejas Mtns. (p. 5)

MEMBE	RSHIP APPLICATION	
	Student or Limited Income \$25;Individual \$45;Family, Group or Library \$75	
	_Plant Lover \$100;Patron \$300;Benefactor \$600;Mariposa Lily \$1,500	
Name(s):		
Address:		
Phone:	e-mail:	
Mail checl	c payable to "CNPS" to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.	

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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