This week we explored the grounds of the school we were visiting in San Diego, California. We were looking for living creatures, especially insects and spiders. Our team found ants, flies, bees, wasps, termites, beetles, and a spider. My first entry is on that spider.

March 26, 2014 11:40AM San Diego, CA



Photo One - Funnel Spider Entrance to Nest. These bushes were filled with these spiders in nests about 2-3 feet apart. The nests were made of rolled, dried leaves of the plant with a web around it.



Photo Two – First View of Spider. This photograph shows the spider coming out of its nest. The pencil point helps to see the size of the nest and spider.



Photo Three – Spider in Viewing Dish. This photo shows the spider and part of the nest after I put it on an examination dish. When I completed my study and identification of the spider I returned it to the original bush where I found it.



Photo Four – Spider Out of Nest. This photo was hard to get since the spider was moving around quite a bit exploring the dish. My team and I spent time trying to identify the spider. Our guess is in the next photo.

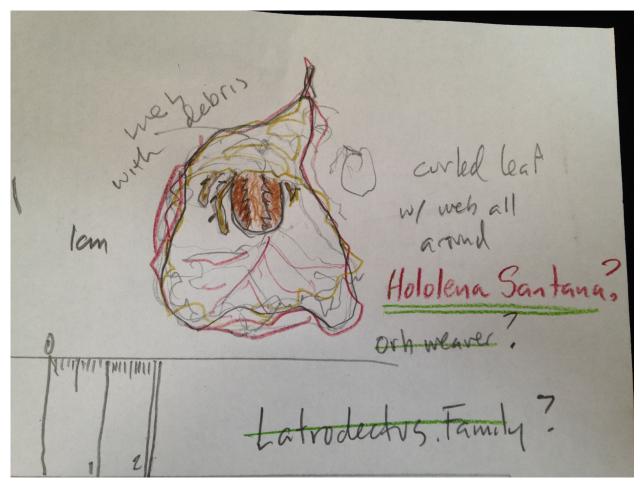


Photo Five – Technical Drawing of Spider in Funnel. We confirmed the name of the spider on the iNaturalist.org website. Several citizen scientists like us agreed that this is Hololena Santana, a funnel spider. It is called a funnel weaver spider because it creates a funnel-shaped nest for hiding.

We discovered that we can add our spider to inaturalist.org and make comments there along with other field researchers. At that site we also discovered this chance to contribute to a study by National Geographic:

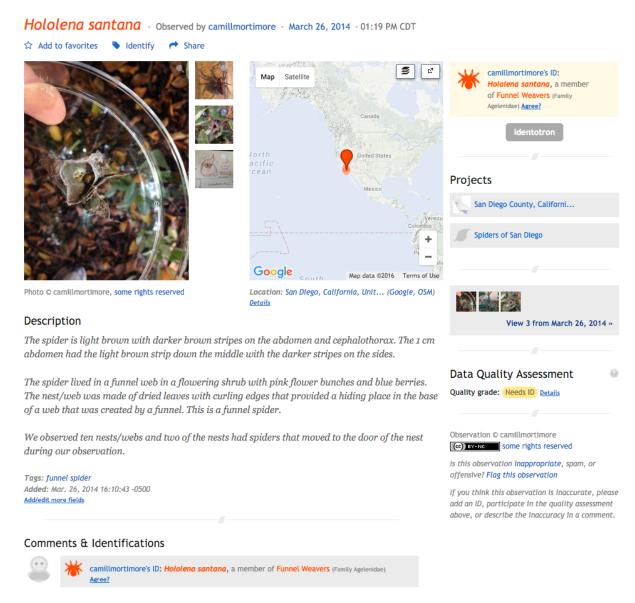
• National Geographic is urging everyone to get outside to explore—and enjoy—nature, whether in their own backyard, a local park, or anywhere that nature thrives. Participants are asked to take, upload, and tag a photo of any species they come across with the goal of building a global snapshot of biodiversity. The uploaded, tagged photos will be aggregated for visitors to browse on greatnatureproject.org, with opportunities learn more about the world's plants and animals through educational resources provided on the website. (If you want your photo included in our attempt to set a Guinness World Record for Largest Online Photo Album of Animals, please use the tag "animal" to insure that it shows up on www.greatnatureproject.org/photos/guinness

iNaturalist - Hololena Santana - San Diego, CA

http://www.inaturalist.org

3/26-14

On a spring visit to San Diego our ecosystem study group searched for local animals – spiders, in particular. Hololena Santana is the spider we found outside our classroom. It was more terrified than we were when we first met each other. She (we think) was living in a bush right outside our window. We submitted our observations and photos to the iNaturalist website. Our guess was confirmed by "citizen scientists" at the site. Here are the results and other things we learned at the site. Check out our entry below!



We found the full classification of our spider, Santana, as we call her for short.

Genus Hololena,

Classification

Within iNaturalist.org



Animals Kingdom Animalia

Arthropods Phylum Arthropoda

Chelicerates Subphylum Chelicerata

Arachnids Class Arachnida

Spiders
Order Araneae

True Spiders
Suborder
Araneomorphae

Entelegyne Spiders Infraorder Entelegynae

Superfamily Agelenoidea

Funnel Weavers
Family Agelenidae

₩ Genus Hololena

Hololena barbarana

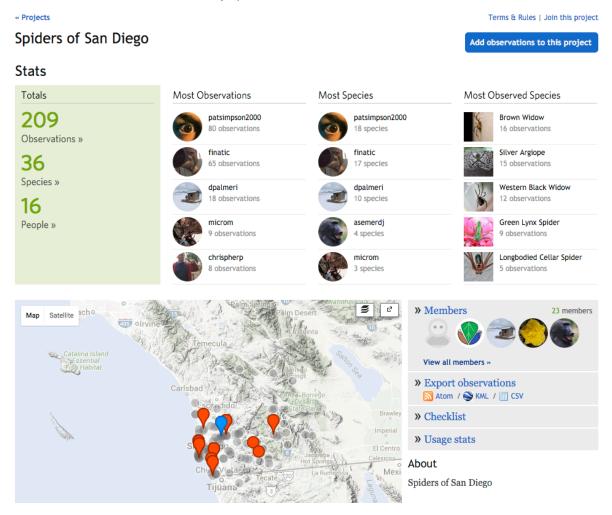
Corner
Funnel
Weaver
Hololena curta

₩ Hololena nedra

Hololena santana

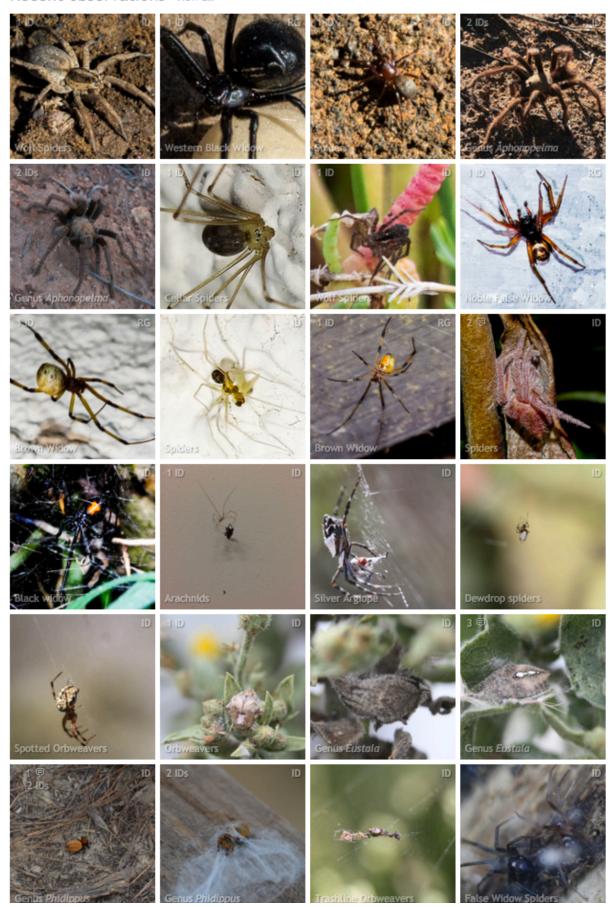


We also discovered lots of Santana's cousins in the San Diego area. We searched for hours to find others, but were not able to capture another spider. Since there were 36 species, it seemed amazing that we did not find more. We did return Santana to her original home bush and hope she weaves a new funnel and has hundreds of baby spiders this season!



iNaturalist is a great site that helped us learn a lot about arachnids as well as about citizen scientists. We felt good about contributing to the science learning of the community.

These are recent observations recorded by other people who are interested in spiders.



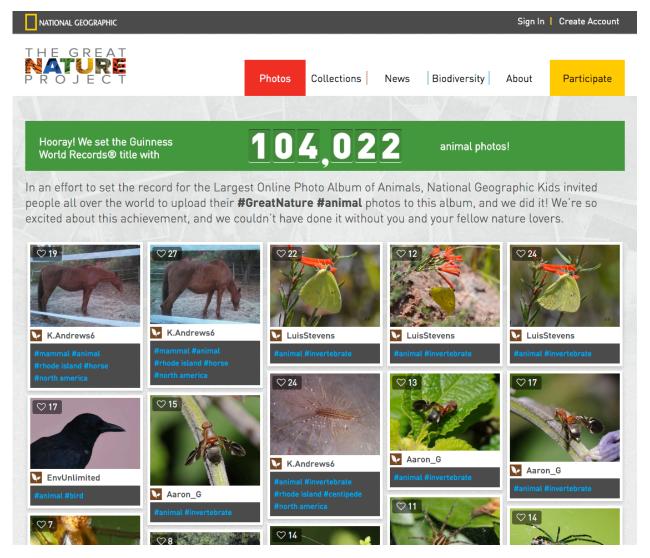
Great Nature Project

National Geographic

http://greatnatureproject.org

3/21/16 12:42 PM

National Geographic is urging everyone to get outside to explore—and enjoy—nature, whether in their own backyard, a local park, or anywhere that nature thrives. Participants are asked to take, upload, and tag a photo of any species they come across with the goal of building a global snapshot of biodiversity. The uploaded, tagged photos will be aggregated for visitors to browse on greatnatureproject.org, with opportunities learn more about the world's plants and animals through educational resources provided on the website. (If you want your photo included in our attempt to set a Guinness World Record for Largest Online Photo Album of Animals, please use the tag "animal" to insure that it shows up on http://greatnatureproject.org



The details on participating are on the site...and easy!



Photos | Collections | News | Biodiversity | About | Participate

How to Participate



Get outside and start exploring biodiversity in your neighborhood!

2 SNAP

Snap photos of the plants, animals, and fungi you see.

3 UPLOAD

Create an account and upload your photos to the Great Nature Project website. You can also upload photos on iNaturalist.org or using a mobile app from iNaturalist and add them to the Great Nature Project from within iNaturalist .

4 IDENTIFY

What type of organism you see? Perhaps all you know is it's a "flowering plant" or "fungus"-- that's ok. Others can suggest identifications if your photos and description are clear enough. If you know exactly what it was-- great! Use the look up feature to find the species name or taxon.

Your photos will be added to the Great Nature Project photo stream and contribute to a global database of biodiversity. As a part of the project, you will be able to track your observations, get help identifying organisms, and connect with a community of nature lovers.

Upload your photos now!

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Activities & Resources

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For Educators
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Google+ cover
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iNaturalist companion app

Photography Tips

Composition Logistics Camera Phone Photo Tips Light and Texture Tips from Nat Geo photographer David Liittschwager

? FAQs

About the Great Nature Project About Sharing Your Photos Using Your Great Nature Project / iNaturalist Account How to Participate About Your Photos