

TradMaD 2023 Bioblitz

We hope many of you will join us in tracking the biodiversity of Pinewood Camp this summer during TradMaD using [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org/). A joint initiative between the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, iNaturalist is a platform for science and conservation efforts, providing valuable open data to research projects as well as to the public. It's also lots of fun!

In 2022, 14 TradMad campers recorded an impressive total of 674 observations, and 262 of those (representing 117 different species) made it to the level of "research grade". We'd love to see if we can top that in 2023!

Among the species identified were, from left to right, the beautiful Polymorphic Pondweed Moth, Chocolate Tube Slime, and Hairy Pinesap (a rare find):



This year, we will meet in the free period before lunch on Sunday in the Wi-Fi area near the camp entrance to give you an overview of iNaturalist and help you download the app to your phone if you are a new user. Then, in the free time before dinner, we will take a walk around camp to show you how to make observations. Our goal is to identify as many plants and animals as we can find at camp during TradMaD.

If you do not already use iNaturalist, we encourage you to try it out ahead of time to help you identify the plants and animals you see on your own nature walks. It's a great way to learn more about your own environment while also contributing your findings to a world-wide database! Just visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/home> and sign up.

If you are interested in participating but are new to iNaturalist, feel free to email me and I'll do my best to answer any questions you may have.

Looking forward to seeing you at Camp!

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