



Endemic Invertebrates

The California coast is home to numerous creatures of all shapes and sizes; too many to count! Did you know that many of these creatures found on the California coast, specifically the Central Coast, are actually exclusive to California? These creatures are known as endemic , meaning you can only find them in one specific location in the world! Many of the endemic species in California are also threatened or endangered, meaning they exist in limited numbers and are protected. As we look through some of the endemic invertebrates to the California Coast, we'll see how they are classified in terms of endangerment as well:

Ohlone Tiger Beetle

The ohlone tiger beetle (*Cicindela ohlone*) is a green insect endemic to Santa Cruz County. Despite being a predator that preys on arthropods, the beetle is classified as a Critically Imperiled endangered species.



Mount Hermon June Beetle

The Mount Hermon June beetle (*Polyphylla barbata*) is another beetle endemic to Santa Cruz County. They spend the majority of their lives underground as larvae, only living a few days to mate. They are also classified as Critically Imperiled.





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Kern Primrose Sphinx Moth

The kern primrose sphinx moth (*Euproserpinus euterpe*) is a species of day-time moth found in specific areas of San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties. It is named after the fact it lays its eggs in a primrose flower, and it is classified as Threatened.



Banded Dune Snail

The banded dune snail (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*) is a species of snail endemic to Morro Bay and nearby counties. Known for its white shell, this species was initially thought to be extinct, but is now classified as Critically Endangered.

White Abalone

The white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) is a sea snail endemic to Southern California. Thought to be the most endangered out of all eight remaining species of abalone on the west coast, it is classified as Critically Imperiled.





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Using the species names from above, solve the endemic invertebrates anagrams below! (answers on next page)

1. Be Teethe Longer Oil
2. Aloha Be Twine
3. Badlands Due Nine
4. Be Theme Tunnel Rune
Mojo
5. Reshipment Horns Mix
Pork



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Key:

1. Ohlone Tiger Beetle
2. White Abalone
3. Banded Dune Snail
4. Mount Hermon June
Beetle
5. Kern Primrose Sphinx
Moth