

## **Biocultural Diversity Hotspots and GIS Analysis: Alta California as a Case Study**

**Chung, Eugene Richard** (New York Botanical Garden/ The Graduate School of the City University of New York)

The world's five most linguistically diverse areas are also biodiversity hotspots. Of these, the documentation of the biotic diversity of the Alta (Upper) California Floristic Province (UCFP) and of the linguistic diversity of the Upper California Indigenous Culture Region (UCICR) is the most complete. GIS analysis demonstrates that the boundaries of the UCFP and the UCICR correlate closely. They form a biocultural diversity hotspot of high plant and language family endemism, with 52 endemic plant genera, 2124 endemic plant species, 3488 native plant species, 14 endemic language families, and multiple dialects of at least 72 endemic languages, in 18 language families.