

*Anthemis cotula* L., MAYWEED, STINKWEED, STINKING CHAMOMILE, DOG-FENNEL. Annual, feathery-leaved, taprooted, rosetted, 1–many-stemmed at base, unbranched until flowering but older plants often with canopy branched at most nodes, ascending to erect, in range 12–140 cm tall; shoots leafy, ± sparsely soft-hairy and glandular-hairy, the nonglandular hairs ± appressed and 2-armed, the glandular hairs tiny and sessile with spheric heads, when handled strongly aromatic like chamomile (*Chamaemelum*). **Stems:** ridged, to 6 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, on large individuals aging nearly cylindrical, tough, faintly striped, typically with persistent, 2-armed hairs; solid, pith whitish. **Leaves:** helically alternate, finely 1–3-pinnately dissected nearly to axes and ± symmetric having mostly paired primary leaflets, ± 3-dimensional, sessile, without stipules; blade narrowly obovate to broadly elliptic in outline, 15–40 × 12–20 mm, mostly sparsely short-hairy but ± tomentose or aging ± villous at base of rachis; rachis slightly winged with green tissue and midrib raised on lower surface; lobes elliptic to lanceolate or linear, 1–4 × 0.3–1.3 mm; ultimate segments either dentate or lobed with a sharp point at each tip, ± obscurely veined. **Inflorescence:** heads solitary, terminal and axillary, head radiate, 13–37 mm across, with 10–16 ray flowers and 140–300+ disc flowers, bracteate, pubescent like shoot; bract subtending peduncle leaflike; peduncle strongly ridged, 25–130 mm long (scaling with head diameter), ± tomentose, glandular in furrows, bracts along peduncle (1–) 2, resembling subtending bract but shorter and reduced (1-pinnate or sometimes the upper one unlobed); **involucre** cup-shaped, 5–9 × 2.5–4 mm, tomentose and glandular, phyllaries 21–24 in 3 series, appressed, lanceolate to ovate, 2.5–4.5 mm long, outer phyllaries < inner phyllaries, green along raised midvein, membranous aging scarious on margins and tip, tomentose and glandular; receptacle convex or hemispheric to conic or domed-cylindric, to 4 × 1.2 mm (increasing to 6 mm long in fruit), with bractlets (paleae) subtending the central half of disc flowers, palea linear and arching to contour of flower, 1.3–2.8 × 0.2 mm, yellowish, hemi-cylindric and pointed, persistent, when young often with some scattered glandular hairs on margins. **Ray flower:** sterile, bilateral, 2.5–3.5 mm across, subtended by inner phyllaries; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** inconspicuously 2–3-toothed, 6–15(–17) mm long; tube rectangular, compressed front-to-back, 1.5–2 × 0.5–0.6 mm, ± colorless, slightly wider at base, during early growth erect and with sessile glandular hairs on margins; limbs spreading horizontal or reflexed when water-stressed, oblong to broadly elliptic or obovate, 4.5–13(–15) × 2.5–3.5 mm, white with yellow base (to 1 mm), faintly 4-veined at base (lower surface) with 2 veins associated with riblike struts, teeth weakly defined; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1, sterile, abortive; ovary inferior, ca. 1.1 mm long; style (if present) included, yellowish, not branched, without stigmatic region. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, 1–1.5 mm across, golden yellow in bud, with scattered sessile glandular hairs on ovary extending to upper corolla; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** 5-lobed, 2.2–2.5 mm long; tube cylindrical, 0.8–1.5 × 0.5 mm; throat bell-shaped to funnel-shaped, 0.8–1 mm long, 0.7–0.8 mm wide at orifice, pale to vivid yellow; lobes spreading to recurved, deltate, 0.4–0.5 mm, golden or vivid yellow; **stamens** 5; filaments fused to corolla at base of throat; cylindrical, 0.5–0.8 mm long, whitish; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, partially exerted, basifixed, dithecal, ca. 1 mm long, golden yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen orange-yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, wedge-shaped, 0.8–1 mm long, whitish, weakly angled

with sessile glandular hairs along ribs; style exerted 0.5 mm, ca. 3 mm long, bulbous at base (probably nectar-producing), 2-branched, the branches spreading becoming recurved, 0.5–0.8 mm long, orange-yellow, grooved on inner face, truncate and papillate-hairy at stigmatic tip. **Fruits:** cypselae, narrowly inversely conic,  $1.2\text{--}1.7 \times 0.6\text{--}0.7$  mm, brown to yellowish tan, minutely bumpy along ca. 10 weak ribs, sparsely glandular in furrows, truncate to oblique at tip with a scarious projection  $\pm 0.2$  mm long ( $\pm$  beak), the ribs ill-defined on rounded faces of cypselae. Early March–early August.

Naturalized. Annual occurring in full sun pastureland and on the edges of creeks and drainages, to date mainly collected near Westlake Village (SMM), where plants can be a meter or more tall during very wet years, but also found in a disturbed site at SMMNRA Peter Strauss Ranch. *Anthemis cotula* is fine-leaved, and its head resembles a small daisy (*Leucanthemum*) or fleabane (*Erigeron*) with white ray flowers. Stinking chamomile gets its various common names because the spheric glandular hairs produce an aroma like chamomile (*Chamaemelon*), which some people find offensive.

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