

Senecio flaccidus Less. var. *douglasii* (DC.) B. L. Turner & T. M. Barkley, SHRUBBY BUTTERWEED, DOUGLAS' RAGWORT, DOUGLAS' THREADLEAF RAGWORT, BUSH SENECEO. Shrub or subshrub, leafless when dormant, taprooted, with ascending to arching or erect shoots, in range 50–150 cm tall; shoots when young grayish woolly-tomentose, pleasantly aromatic when crushed with a parsleylike fragrance (*Petroselinum*; = chemicals in resin ducts). **Stems:** ridged but ridges hidden by hairs produced in furrows, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, sometimes becoming rose-striped or purple-striped after shedding hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, commonly deeply pinnately dissected with 1–3 pairs of lateral lobes, ± sessile but not clasping, without stipules (sometimes basal lobes resembling stipules); blade linear and threadlike or with cylindric-linear lobes diverging from central axis, central axis 20–80 × 1–3 mm, > 3× the longest lateral lobe, somewhat fleshy, flexible, lateral lobes often near leaf base, < 1 mm wide, entire and inrolled under (revolute) on margins, midrib = conspicuous groove on both surfaces, gray-tomentose to glabrate. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal, flat-topped, cymelike arrays of several heads, head radiate, 25–40 mm across, with 7–13(–21) ray flowers and 40–63 disc flowers, bracteate, pubescent to nearly glabrous; bract subtending peduncle leaflike, lanceolate-linear to linear or awl-shaped (short ones), 4.5–15 × 0.4–1.4 mm; peduncle 10–67 mm long, pubescent to nearly glabrous, with 1–7 widely spaced bracts along axis (bract for future peduncle), the bracts ascending, linear, 3.3–7 mm long; bracts subtending involucre 9–12(–15) (calyculus), helically alternate, arching and spreading to ascending, linear awl-shaped, 4–7.8 mm long, tomentose on basal margins; **involucre** ± bell-shaped becoming urn-shaped, 9–13.5 × 6–7 mm, phyllaries (13–)17–21 in 1–2 series, subequal, linear to linear-lanceolate, (7–)8–10 mm long, outer phyllaries < inner phyllaries and longer and wider in fruit, light green, ridged, reddish and papillate at tip, glabrous; receptacle flat, 2.5–4.5 mm tall, without bractlets (paleae), glabrous. **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, ca. 5 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of > 100 capillary bristles, bristles 3.5–7.4 mm long increasing in fruit, silky white; **corolla** minutely 3-toothed, 18–27 mm long; tube 5.3–8.4 mm long, light greenish yellow; limb narrowly elliptic, (10–)11.7–18(–20) × 3.7–5 mm, bright yellow, 4–6-veined, veins yellowish aging reddish brown; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, ± cylindric, ± 2 mm long, light green, pubescent, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exserted, 7.5–10 mm long, whitish at base to yellowish and orangey yellow at tip, 2-branched, whitish at base to yellow above, the branches recurved, tapered, ca. 2 mm long, glabrous, grooved on exposed face. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, 1.5–2.7 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of > 100 capillary bristles, bristles 3.5–7.4 mm long increasing in fruit, silky white; **corolla** 5-lobed, cylindric, 8.2–10 mm long, with nectar in tube and lower throat, bright to vivid yellow; tube 3.7–5.2 mm long; throat narrowly bell-shaped, 3.5–5 mm long; lobes deltate, 0.5–1 × 0.7–1 mm; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla at top of tube; filaments 1.8–2.8 mm long, whitish; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, exserted to midpoint, basifixed, dithecal, 2.6–3.5 mm long, yellow, cordate at base, narrowly acute at sterile tip, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen orange yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, ± cylindric and slightly tapered at base, 1.5–2.3 mm long, light greenish, densely pubescent; style exserted, 9–12 mm long, light whitish at base to yellow above, **nectary** at base, style 2-branched, the branches 1.5–1.8 mm long, broadly conic and papillate at tip. **Fruits:** cypselae, monomorphic, straight to slightly curved and ± cylindric, 4.2–5.7 × 0.4–0.9 mm, orangey tan or red-brown, obtuse at base, truncate and

slightly flared at tip, 10-ribbed, densely white short-strigose; pappus of ca. 110 silky white capillary bristles, 7–10 mm long, (shortly barbed at 40×). Late May–late November.

Native. Shrub occurring mostly along runoff channels in chaparral and coastal sage scrub. *Senecio flaccidus* var. *douglasii* has pinnately dissected leaves with threadlike lobes, hence one of the common names. Its ray flowers are showy and bright yellow, and the disc flowers provide a nectar reward for pollinators.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson