

Amblyopappus pusillus Hooker & Arnott, COAST WEED. Annual, taprooted, 1(–several)-stemmed at base, typically branching above midpoint to form a ± flat-topped or rounded flowering canopy, erect, in range 8–25 cm tall; shoots glabrous, densely dotted with sessile resin glands, strongly aromatic (reminiscent of tarragon, *Artemisia dracunculus*), in fresh condition somewhat sticky, becoming very resinous after picked. **Stems:** somewhat ridged, to 5 mm diameter, tough, becoming pale orange-brown. **Leaves:** helically alternate (opposite at the lowest nodes), simple or at shoot base occasionally deeply pinnately dissected with 3 or 5 lobes, sessile, without stipules; blade and lobes linear, 5–25(–35) × 0.7–2 mm, somewhat fleshy, entire, blunt-rounded at tip, midrib conspicuous and sunken on upper surface. **Inflorescence:** heads, terminal, in leafy, cymelike panicle arrays, heads clustered at branch tips, head ± disciform with (0)3–8 pistillate peripheral flowers opposite phyllaries and to 22 bisexual disc flowers, bracteate; bract subtending peduncle leaflike, at anthesis < 15 mm long; peduncle 1.5–12 mm long, < subtending bract; **involucre** at anthesis inversely conic, 3–3.5 × 2–3.5 mm, becoming bell-shaped and 3–6 mm diameter in fruit, phyllaries (3–)4–5(–8) in ± 1 series, obovate, 2–3.5 mm long increasing to 5 mm in fruit, overlapping, green sometimes with rose-colored midvein; receptacle broadly short-conic, without bractlets (paleae), glabrous. **Peripheral (ray) flower:** pistillate, inconspicuously bilateral, ca. 0.5 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 7–12 scales, scales erect, unequal, oblong, 0.15–0.3 mm long, flattened, white or red-purple especially above midpoint becoming ± transparent, unlobed to 3-lobed; **corolla** inconspicuously 2-toothed, 0.7–1.1 mm long, bright yellow, with erect limbs; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly inversely conic and curved, 0.8–2 mm long, ascendingly scabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, 0.8–1.1 mm long, yellowish aging orangey brown, 2-branched, the stigmatic branches ± 0.4 mm long. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, 0.5 mm across, 2 mm long; **calyx (pappus)** of 7–12 scales, scales erect, unequal, oblong to obovate, 0.15–0.3 mm long, flattened, white or red-purple especially above midpoint becoming ± transparent, unlobed to 3-lobed; **corolla** 4(–5)-lobed, funnel-shaped, ca. 1 mm long; tube pale yellow; throat bright yellow; lobes ascending, deltate, bright yellow; **stamens** 4, fused to corolla at base of throat; filaments 0.2 mm long, colorless; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, slightly exerted, basifixed, dithecal, 0.35 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly inversely conic and curved, 0.8–2 mm long, ascendingly scabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, 0.8–1.1 mm long, yellowish aging orangey brown, 2-branched, the branches ± 0.4 mm long, stigmas triangular. **Fruits:** cypselae, inversely narrowly pyramidal and slightly curved (outer flowers) or straight (inner flowers), ca. 2.2 × 0.5 mm, black, 3–4 angled, short-scabrous, faces glandular and finely cobblestonelike near base; enveloped in a tawny brown, membranous layer; pappus scales 7–12, erect, oblong to obovate, persistent. Late March–early June.

Native. Annual rarely encountered on sandy flats just above beaches, in range known only from Point Dume at 45–60 meters in elevation. *Amblyopappus pusillus* only is observed in certain years; during most years rainfall is not adequate or properly received for this plant to appear, so only expect to find this species during the wettest springs. The resinous nature of *Amblyopappus pusillus* becomes exaggerated after it is placed into a plastic bag

or pressed to make an herbarium specimen, but unmolested this plant is only slightly sticky.

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