

Artemisia dracunculus L., WILD TARRAGON. Perennial herb, drought-dormant, taprooted and fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base, \pm unbranched, the lowermost stem horizontal, bark-covered, and with adventitious roots, above erect to ascending, 50–150+ cm tall; shoots formed during spring, with narrow cauline leaves and short or unexpanded axillary shoots having tufted leaves, glabrous, gland-dotted with tack-shaped, resin-producing hairs sunken in surface (resin obscuring structure), strongly scented = tarragon. **Stems:** low-ridged, to 6.5 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, straight, aging purple-red; lower woody stem hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, unlobed and lower leaves occasionally with 1 or 2 ascending linear lobes to 30 mm long, \pm sessile, lacking stipules; petiole when present very short, = flaring base; blade linear to narrowly lanceolate, 10–65 \times 1.5–7 mm, broadly tapered to tapered at base, entire (shallowly lobed) on margins, narrowly acute at tip, 3-veined at base with only midrib conspicuous and raised on lower surface, glabrous but with numerous resin glands, the resin colorless aging orange-brown to red and then blackish. **Inflorescence:** heads, terminal and axillary, the entire canopy leafy in paniclelike arrays, array in range 130–600 \times (35–)60–150(–300) mm, racemelike branchlets short and ascending to arching and having 1–16 nodding to pendent heads, head disciform, ca. 2 mm across, < 35-flowered with 16–18 pistillate peripheral flowers, 4–16 staminate flowers, and 0–8 sterile central flowers, bracteate, gland-dotted; bracts subtending branchlet leaflike, 1.5–9 mm long, axis several-ridged, sometimes with 1 or 2 smaller bracts (< 1.5 mm long) near midpoint; peduncle subtending head < 1 mm long; **involucre** bell-shaped, 2.3–3 \times 1.6–2 mm increasing in width and appearing \pm spheroidal in fruit, phyllaries to 15 in several series, overlapping and tightly appressed, \pm oblong to ovate or elliptic, 2.9–4.5 \times 1.5–2.5 mm, green with membranous margins and tip, glabrous, inner phyllaries more membranous and the innermost phyllaries elliptic; receptacle conic, without bractlets (paleae). **Peripheral flower:** pistillate, radial, 0.5 mm across, \pm 1.5 mm long; **calyx (pappus)** absent or = vestigial rim; **corolla** typically 2-lobed, narrowly cylindrical, \pm 0.7 mm long, with scattered, sessile, spheric glandular hairs; lobes = acute teeth, unequally cleft, sometime 3-toothed with small tooth at base of deeper cleft; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, 0.6–0.7 mm long, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exserted, \pm 2 mm long, 2-branched; the branches ascending, equal or unequal, flat, to \pm 0.3 mm long, papillate-hairy on stigma, longitudinally grooved on inner face. **Central flower:** staminate or neuter, radial, 0.5 mm across, 1.2–1.5 mm long; **calyx (pappus)** absent or = vestigial rim; **corolla** typically 5-toothed; tube 0.5–0.6 mm long, greenish; throat 0.5–0.7 mm long; teeth acute, \pm 0.2 mm long, pale yellow; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla at base of throat, included, with sterile or fertile anthers; filaments short; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, \pm 0.4 mm long, pale yellow, rounded at base, acute at tip, longitudinally dehiscent, pollen pale yellow to light yellow; **pistil** 1, sterile; ovary inferior, < 0.2 mm long; style included, \pm 0.7 mm long, 2-branched; the branches short, truncate and papillate at tip, thick on margins. **Fruits:** cypselae, monomorphic, oblanceoloid to obovoid, 0.7–1 mm long, brown but white at attachment scar, glabrous, glossy but surface irregular in \pm longitudinal pattern. Early June–mid-August.

Naturalized. Perennial herb found occasionally in disturbed, open scrubland throughout the range. *Artemisia dracunculus*, tarragon, is a strongly aromatic culinary herb, and its

terpenes are produced by glandular hairs sunken in surfaces of the shoot; secreted liquid terpenes fill in the cavity around the hairs, where the liquid solidify as resin, obscuring the hairs.

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