

***Bloomeria crocea*** (Torrey) Cov. var. ***crocea***, COMMON GOLDENSTAR. Perennial herb, geophytic, corm-bearing, acaulous, 1-stemmed at base, scapose with a terminal umbel-like cluster of flowers, ascending to erect, 15–70 cm tall; shoot with only 1 basal leaf typically partially withered at first flowering, essentially glabrous; corm with fibrous cover. **Stem (peduncle):** cylindric, 1.5–4 mm thick, narrower at and below ground level, tough, white belowground and photosynthetic and green or purplish aboveground, sometimes with erect, minute hairs near leaf sheath. **Leaves:** alternate (1), simple with sheath; sheath mostly subterranean, closed, white but purple approaching blade, aging papery; blade linear, 150– > 500 × 8–16 mm (progressively turning brown and being shed at the tip as leaf grows from base), curved upward from midrib, dark green, subtire to minutely toothed with backward-pointing teeth on margins, long-tapered at tip when very young, parallel-veined, lower surface with keeled and angular midrib. **Inflorescence:** umbel-like, hemispheric, 5–100+-flowered, with new flowers arising among older ones, several flowers opening each day, bracteate; peduncle above leaf sheath minutely scabrous having vertical strips of down-pointing, toothlike papillae alternating with strips of stomate-bearing epidermis, stiff (cylinder of fiber cells beneath green tissue), somewhat glaucous; bractlet subtending each pedicel, alternate, **involucre** of outer bractlets overlapping at bases, spreading to reflexed, outer bractlets narrowly triangular and long-tapered, to 14 mm long, gradually decreasing upward, tough-membranous aging scarious and fragmenting, interior bractlets linear, scarious and persisting among pedicel bases; pedicel ascending to spreading and curving upward, at anthesis 13–35 mm long increasing 2× in fruit, wiry, glaucous. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 12–32 mm across; **tepals** 6 in 2 close whorls, ± identical, whorl ± fused at base and at anthesis corolla ± cymbal-shaped (rotate), tepal narrowly elliptic, 9–13.5 × 2.3–3.8 mm, mostly golden yellow but green at base and each typically with a conspicuous midstripe on lower side, the midstripe maroon (brownish) or sometimes green and aging maroon; **stamens** 6, fused to bases of tepals; filaments ascending to erect, unequal, 5.5–10 mm long, the 3 opposite inner tepals slightly longer, ± the same shade yellow as tepals, with a pair of nectar-producing appendages at base; appendages compressed front-to-back, 1–1.7 × 0.8–1.8 mm, pale yellow, densely papillate, shallowly cupped and toothed on top, free or barely fused at base, teeth 2–4, the lateral 2 larger, other teeth minute (absent); anthers somewhat basifixed, dithecal, linear, 1.2–3.5 mm long, pale yellow to pale lavender, ± cordate at base, cleft at tip, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, 6–7 mm long, stalked; stalk ca. 1 mm; ovary superior, obovoid, 2.5–4 × 1.7–2.3 mm, in ×-section 6-lobed (each of 3 major lobes shallowly 2-lobed), light green, 3-chambered, each chamber with 4–6 ovules attached to center; style 3.5–5 mm long, initially erect but later arching away from center, initially paler yellow but thicker than filaments, persistent; stigma in bud at level of outer anthers and but eventually sometime elevated above inner anthers, 3-crested or 3-lobed, papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, 12–18-seeded, broadly ellipsoid (oval in outline) with a stylar beak, 5–7 mm long, dehiscent also through beak. **Seed:** irregularly ovoid to fusiform in outline and sand grain-shaped, 1.7–2.9 × 0.9–1.6 mm, dull black, with convex and concave faces, finely textured and cobblestonelike (rugose). Early April–mid-June.

Native. A scapose, geophytic perennial often encountered mid-springtime in grassland or sunny openings of shrubland. Most hikers observe this species after it has begun to flower, at which time the single basal leaf has already withered. *Bloomeria crocea* is easily

recognized by its golden yellow flowers in an umbel-like array. Each tepal (scarcely fused) has a conspicuous midstripe, described in some treatments as brown but which actually is maroon or purple. The papillate, basal appendages of the filaments are distinctive; these secrete nectar to the inside, and the nectar collects around the ovary and is confined there by papillae.

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