

Brodiaea terrestris Kell. subsp. *kernensis* (Hoover) T. F. Niehaus, KERN BRODIAEA, KERN DWARF BRODIAEA. Perennial herb, geophytic, corm-bearing, fibrous-rooted, rosetted, acaulous, 1–several-stemmed at base, scapose, 8–20 cm tall; shoot commonly with 3 leaves, leaves withered or absent at flowering, glabrous; corm broadly ovoid, 3–7 mm wide, with daughter corms, the flesh white covered with thin, scarios, papery brown leaf bases. **Stem (peduncle):** cylindric, to 1.5 mm diameter. **Leaves:** alternate, simple; blade linear, to 500 × 3 mm, entire but inrolled (in ×-section crescent-shaped), tapered to tip, parallel-veined, lower surface darker than upper surface and with many light specks (sunken stomates) easily visible with hand lens. **Inflorescence:** umbel-like, with flowers on long pedicels, < 10-flowered, flowers helically alternate, bracteate, glabrous; bractlet subtending each pedicel; **involucre** of 2 membranous bractlets of the outermost flowers, partially fused on 1 side and initially enclosing all young flower buds; bractlet subtending other pedicels membranous and long-tapered to tip; pedicel ascending, at anthesis 50–70 mm long increasing 2× in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, in range 20–31 mm across; **perianth** 6-lobed, fused at base with 2 whorls of petaloid lobes (tepals), funnel-shaped; tube ± narrowly funnel-shaped cylindric, 6–9.5 × 3–4 mm, 2 mm wide at base, whitish with 6 greenish veins aging brownish; lobes ascending or outer ones recurved, ± elliptic, 12–14 mm long, strong violet with a brownish midstripe on lower surface, outer lobes 3.5–4.7 mm wide, acute and papillate-powdery (farinose) at tip with a ± subterminal point, inner lobes 6.2–6.5 mm wide, rounded or slightly so at tip with a small patch of powdery (farinose) glands; **stamens** 3 fertile + 3 sterile staminodes in different whorls, fused to perianth tube, fertile stamens opposite inner perianth lobes, staminodes opposite outer perianth lobes and erect but tips arching slightly inward and extending above anthers; filaments fused to perianth tube for 7–8 mm, filament free portions of fertile stamens in range 1.5–2 mm long, green with white membranous wings; anthers basifixed, dithecal, in range 4.2–4.8 mm long, pale yellow with whitish connective, longitudinally dehiscent with connective minutely toothed; pollen pale yellow; filament free portions of staminode in range 7–7.4 mm long, 3.7 mm wide with a pair of shoulders at base, 2.5 mm wide and W-shaped (3-toothed) at tip, white at base to pale violet at tip with a light green midvein, margin slightly inrolled; **pistil** 1, in range (11–)13–15 mm long; ovary superior, 3-angled and narrowly obovoid, 7–8.5 mm long, green, **nectaries** in grooves at base of ovary, 3-chambered, each chamber with 3 ovules attached to center; style in range ± 5.5 × 1 mm, white; stigmas spreading to slightly recurved, flattened side-to-side, ca. 1 mm long, white, papillate-hairy on upper and top edges. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, 3-valved, to 9-seeded, ± ellipsoid, in range 11–18 × 3–3.5 mm, with 3 acuminate valve tips after stigmas break off, dehiscent downward to midpoint; hidden by persistent papery perianth. **Seed:** irregularly ovoid, 2.1–2.2 × 1.3–1.5 mm, black, angular, seed coat finely lined with narrowly, vertically oriented cells. Mid-April–early June.

Native. Spring geophyte occasionally observed in grassy meadows growing in heavy, cracking clay with other interesting native geophytes and dicotyledonous herbs, including disturbed communities otherwise dominated by introduced grasses. Before 2003, this taxon within the range was incorrectly identified as *Brodiaea jolonensis*, which is instead a northern species, extremely similar to *B. terrestris* subsp. *kernensis* but which has shorter flowers and a pistil having a purple ovary, whereas our species has a green ovary.

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