

Ceanothus crassifolius Torrey var. *crassifolius*, HOARYLEAF CEANOTHUS. Shrub, evergreen, unarmed, 1–several-stemmed from short trunk, with a V-shaped canopy and mostly ascending branches, 150–400 cm tall; terminal shoots straight and lacking lateral spur shoots, initially short-tomentose; principal woody branches deeply fluted where old branches died and abscised; bark dull gray. **Stems:** ± cylindrical, initially greenish or upper side often reddish brown, densely light tan or light gray short-tomentose aging glabrescent, brownish to rusty-colored or gray-glaucous. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, on stem at node, domelike and corky typically with a short point or peaked, often touching the stipule of opposite leaf, 1.5–3 mm across, reddish becoming dark, sparsely short-hairy, persistent; petiole 2–6 mm long, densely short-tomentose; blade ovate or elliptic (obovate), 12–33(–40) × 10–20 mm, thick and stiff but not fibrous, initially flat and slightly inrolled under (revolute) or becoming strongly inrolled when water stressed, broadly tapered at base, entire or typically short-dentate on margins with widely spaced, shallow, hard teeth, obtuse to rounded but not notched at tip, pinnately veined and 1-veined from base with principal veins raised on lower surface, upper surface sparsely tan short-tomentose or glabrate and aging minutely bumpy (= hair bases), lower surface sparsely hairy along veins and densely white-tomentose between lateral veins (obscuring stomatal crypts). **Inflorescence:** racemelike, axillary, 25–35 mm long, in showy clusters, with pairs of short, 2–3-flowered cymes along axis, bracteate, densely short-tomentose to tomentose; peduncle light green and sometimes reddish tinged, with tan or light gray hairs; bract subtending rachis round-ovate, 2.5–3 mm long, reddish brown, densely tomentose toward axis, ± corky; rachis ca. 15–25 mm long, whitish to pale green and sometimes reddish; bract subtending each lateral branchlet (cyme) oblanceolate to obovate and deeply cupped, 3–5 × 2–3.5 mm, early-deciduous and leaving a ledgelike base; bractlet subtending pedicel minute, with reddish tip, early-deciduous; pedicel slender, 5–15 mm long increasing in fruit, flexible, cream to white or pink aging red or purplish pink, flexible, glabrous. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 5.5–8 mm across, protandrous; hypanthium subtending fleshy disc and ovary base, colored like pedicel; **sepals** (4–)5–6(–7), spreading and somewhat incurved, ovate-deltate, 1.5–2.5 mm long, with midridge on upper surface, white (never pigmented); **petals** (4–)5–6(–7), narrowly clawed to about midpoint and conspicuously hooded, 2–2.5(–3) mm long, white, initially ascending and with hood cupping anther or often twisted, later recurved; **stamens** (4–)5–6(–7), free, opposite petals; filaments ascending or spreading, 1.7–2.3 mm long, white or sometimes light lilac; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ca. 1 mm long prior to dehiscent in bud while enclosed in petal hood, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **nectary disc** flattened ringlike and weakly scalloped at point of filament attachment and between filaments, ca. 0.4 mm thick, 1.6–2.5 mm diameter, dark to light purple, greenish, or cream; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, triangular in ×-section, 3-lobed with incipient horns, green with horns sometimes pinkish green, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style white or light lavender typically with violet tips, 3-lobed at or above midpoint, at anthesis cylindrical with appressed lobes 1–1.5 mm long increasing to 2.5 mm long and spreading after anthers discharge pollen. **Fruit:** schizocarpic capsule, at maturity separating into 3 1-seeded parts with rounded bases from persistent disc with W-shaped wall fragment of each chamber, 5–7.5(–8) mm wide, brownish at maturity before dehiscence, 3-lobed with

a conspicuous, shriveled crest (horn) on the shoulder of each valve, glabrous; persistent disc ca. 7 mm across. **Seed:** oval, 3.5–4 × 2.5–2.7 mm, dark green, smooth. Mid-December–mid-June.

Native. Shrub of chaparral codominant with chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) in parts of the range, e.g., at SMMNRA Rocky Oaks (SMM) and above Oak Park and eastern Thousand Oaks (SH), where it may occur in dense stands. *Ceanothus crassifolius* is easily identified by having four wartlike or domelike stipules at each node; opposite, thick, evergreen leaves that are white hairy beneath; and having several short teeth on margins that often become somewhat inrolled. The white flowers of this species begin to open about one month after *C. megacarpus*, and rarely does flowering persist after April. In many locations, *C. crassifolius* grows with and is flowering at the same time as *C. cuneatus*. *Ceanothus crassifolius* resprouts vigorously after a fire. Variety *planus* Abrams, which occurs in Ventura County, is the name that applies to less hairy individuals having leaves that tend to lack teeth and do not become inrolled, which appears to be a phenotypically plastic character.

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