

Ceanothus oliganthus Nutt. var. *oliganthus*, HAIRY-LEAF CEANOTHUS. Large shrub to small multi-stemmed tree, evergreen, unarmed, with a highly branched, dense canopy, 250–500 cm tall; shoots conspicuously short-hairy throughout; trunk not deeply fissured; bark striped, not glaucous. **Stems:** cylindric, often deep purplish red to reddish brown, typically with tiny reddish brown blisters fusing together lower on stem, young stems and twigs pubescent to densely short-villous. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, awl-shaped to lanceolate, 2–3 mm long, dark reddish, \pm keeled, deciduous; petiole cylindric, 3–9 mm long, pubescent and sparsely short-hirsute; blade ovate to broadly elliptic, 12–41 \times 7–32 mm, rounded at base, short-dentate to short-serrate on margins with teeth initially glandular and producing a hard, reddish exudate, obtuse to rounded at tip, 3-veined from base with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface dark green and sparsely soft-pubescent to glabrescent, lower surface lighter green and \pm sericeous (especially along veins), often glaucous. **Inflorescence:** paniclelike, axillary near branch tips, \pm cylindric, 10– < 50 mm long, with many lateral branchlets, many-flowered, branchlet (cyme) 1–5-flowered, bracteate; peduncle and rachis densely short villous-hirsute; bract subtending lateral branchlet cupped-lanceolate or cupped broadly ovate to cupped-elliptic, ca. 3.5 mm long, green to pale green becoming reddish brown at acute tip, short-villous hirsute, deciduous; bractlet subtending branchlet or pedicel narrowly ovate to elliptic, ca. 2.5 mm long, short-villous hirsute also internally with short hairs; branchlet with terminal and lateral growth tips; pedicel slender, at anthesis 5–10 mm long increasing slightly in fruit, flexible, light purplish blue to pale or light violet. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 5–6 mm across; protandrous; hypanthium subtending fleshy disc and ovary, ca. 0.3 mm long, colored like pedicel but darker; **sepals** 5(–7), initially incurved then spreading aging reflexed, ovate-deltate, 1.2–2 mm long, light purplish blue or pale to light violet; **petals** 5(–7), initially ascending but later spreading, narrowly clawed and conspicuously hooded, 2–2.8 mm long, same color as sepals, with off-center midridge on upper surface; **stamens** 5(–7), free, opposite petals, in bud enclosed in petal hood; filaments slightly < petals, curved-ascending or arching inward; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, \pm 0.7 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent in bud; pollen light yellow; **nectary disc** ringlike, slightly scalloped into ca. 10 weak lobes, \pm 0.3 mm thick, \pm 1.3 mm diameter, typically deep purplish blue sometimes tinged with green, with a shallow sinus between filaments and a notch opposite filament; **pistil** 1, \pm 2.5 mm long; ovary superior, triangular in \times -section with incipient horns, green or tinged purple, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style \pm 2 mm long, deep purplish blue to strong violet, 3-branched in upper 1/3–1/4, cylindric with branches appressed prior to anthesis increasing to 1–1.3 mm long and spreading after anthers discharge pollen; stigmas minutely papillate, sometimes darker the style. **Fruit:** schizocarpic capsule, explosively separating into 3 1-seeded parts from persistent nectary disc, 3-lobed, 4.5–5.5 mm diameter, the outer layer blackish red, glabrous, dry and cracking, the inner layer hard, straw-colored, smooth. **Seed:** lenticular, ca. 3 mm long, depressed slightly on 1 side, glossy reddish, smooth. Late December–early June.

Native. Small tree common in upper chaparral of the higher, mostly sandstone habitats and ridgelines in SMM and SH, on north-facing slopes. From a distance flowers appear

blue, but they are not so under high illumination. *Ceanothus oliganthus* has about seven low teeth per ten millimeters of blade margin, hence this species, called hairy-leaf ceanothus, is easy to identify in vegetative condition.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson