

Chaenactis glabriuscula DC. var. *glabriuscula*, YELLOW PINCUSHION. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, eventually with ascending branches, erect, 3–45 cm tall; shoots with deeply dissected basal leaves and cauline leaves, original basal leaves withered at flowering, with cobwebby pubescence and sparse, inconspicuous, short-stalked glandular hairs with colorless heads (drying reddish). **Stems:** cylindrical, to 4 mm diameter, green often becoming deep purplish red, with cobwebby hairs aging glabrescent and increased glandular hairs approaching inflorescence. **Leaves:** helically alternate, 1(2)-pinnately dissected (linear leaves on miniature plants), petiolate, without stipules; petiole channeled, 10–35 mm long, winged at flaring base, with rounded edges and slender (< 2 mm diameter); lobes of blade \pm narrowly ovate in outline, 12–60 mm long, with elevated, cylindrical-linear lobes to 55 mm long arising subopposite to alternate along channeled axis 1–1.3 mm wide, ultimate segments \pm cylindrical, 5–10 mm long, somewhat fleshy, entire or sometimes divided into shorter lobes, blunt-acute at tip, venation obscure. **Inflorescence:** solitary heads, terminal on each branch, heads of 2 types of bisexual flowers (radiant), (5–)12–25 mm across, except on small heads > 50-flowered, the peripheral flowers showy grading to typical disc flowers, bracteate; peduncle to 135 mm long, hollow, cobwebby and glandular-hairy, often somewhat flaring approaching head and with scattered, stouter stalked glandular hairs (to 0.2 mm long), sometimes having a graded series of linear to leaflike bracts above the closest branch; **involucre** subtending head hemispheric to inversely conic, 5–10 mm diameter, phyllaries typically > 25, in \pm 2 series, subequal, linear-lanceolate, 4.5–7 mm long increasing slightly in fruit, erect and blunt at tip, somewhat keeled, green and lacking membranous margins, exposed surface fine-hairy and densely glandular-hairy; receptacle \pm flat, without bractlets (paleae), shallowly pitted with low rim surrounding each ovary. **Peripheral flower:** bisexual, slightly bilateral, 6–7 mm across (in transitional series flowers radial and 3–4 mm across); **calyx (pappus)** of 4 scales in 1 whorl, obovate to narrowly fan-shaped, 0.1–1 mm long, translucent, thick at base, minutely jagged on margins; **corolla** 5-lobed, strongly bent outward above phyllary and with the 2–3 larger lobes positioned on lower side of spreading corolla; tube + flaring throat 4–5 mm long, greenish to greenish yellow at base to yellowish at orifice, narrow at base, densely glandular hairy concealing 5 low ribs to sinuses; lobes elliptic to obovate, 3–5 mm long on each flower, golden yellow, papillate especially on upper surface and margins; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly cylindrical, with short, colorless, ascending hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, yellow, 2-branched, the branches ascending to spreading, papillate. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 2.5 mm across (central flowers), in bud with numerous short, yellow, glandular hairs on corolla; **calyx (pappus)** of 4 scales in 1 whorl, obovate to narrowly fan-shaped, 0.1–1 mm long, translucent, thick at base, minutely jagged on margins; **corolla** 5-lobed, narrowly funnel-shaped, 4–6 mm long, deep yellow, within throat and on lobes conspicuously papillate; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube; filaments to 1 mm long, greenish; anthers fused into cylindrical surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, sacs ca. 0.8 mm long + triangular appendages to 0.4 mm long at tip, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly cylindrical, with short, colorless, ascending hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, yellow, 2-branched, the branches ascending to spreading, papillate. **Fruits:** cypsela, monomorphic, narrowly cylindrical-

conic, 3–5.5 mm long, black, not compressed, shallowly 10-ribbed, with ascending, short, colorless hairs; pappus scales 4, translucent. Early March–mid-June.

Native. Annual found in comparatively local populations scattered within the range, growing most commonly on open slopes and openings in chaparral with mixed species of native and naturalized annuals. Any population of *Chaenactis glabriuscula* var. *glabriuscula* has depauperate, unbranched individuals as small as three centimeters tall with a small terminal head versus the more standard plant with several branches, each branch terminated with a showy head.

In range inland populations are certainly var. *glabriuscula*, but discussions need to be focused on whether coastal populations belong to other varieties. A population at Point Dume, growing in sand, is currently judged to be var. *glabriuscula*, but it is possible that plants called *C. glabriuscula* var. *orcuttiana* (Greene) H. M. Hall may be found. Variety *orcuttiana* tends to have more fleshy, twice-divided leaves. To be called var. *orcuttiana*, study will be needed to determine whether in range any coastal plants have short pappus scales on cypselae of the outer flowers and much longer scale on cypselae of the typical disc flowers. Collectors have also suspected that the more woolly form called var. *lanosa* (DC.) H. M. Hall may occur in range, but the plants examined to date have not displayed the extreme standard form of var. *lanosa* found on the Channel Islands.

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