

Cichorium intybus L., CHICORY. Perennial herb, taprooted, ± flat-rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, ± scapose with several ascending to ± erect flowering branches from midplant, in range 30–140 cm tall; shoots with 8–10 rosette leaves withered during flowering; latex milky, copious; taproot deep, erect or ascending, in range to 25 mm thick, fleshy, covered with brown periderm. **Stems:** ± cylindrical at base to ridged in flowering canopy, to 10 mm diameter, having alternating strips of fibers and green (photosynthetic) tissues, in range sparsely short-hairy; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, coarsely pinnately lobed and petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile and clasping (cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole flattened, unwinged portion to 35 mm long, winged portion like blade, widely flared and half-encircling stem, whitish, somewhat fleshy, glabrous; blade of basal leaves oblanceolate to oblong, 120–340 × 25–90 mm, principal lobes paired or not, long-tapered at base grading into petiole, in range low-dentate (coarsely serrate) on margins and sometimes with slight lobes to larger teeth below midpoint, often entire 1/3 to tip, ± acute at tip, pinnately veined with whitish midrib conspicuously raised on lower surface, with scattered hairs; blade of cauline leaves unlobed, oblanceolate near base grading to oblong and above lanceolate, reduced upward and grading into bracts subtending inflorescence branches, especially upper cauline leaves clasping and somewhat lobed at base (auriculate), short-dentate or entire on margins, acute at tip, pinnately veined, somewhat scabrous with shaggy short hairs. **Inflorescence:** heads in large, open, paniclelike arrays, terminal, array with ascending lateral branches having racemelike branchlets, each branchlet with 1–9 heads, head ligulate, 23–33 mm across, in range 11–15-flowered, bracteate; main axes somewhat zigzagged and low-ridged; bract subtending lateral branch or branchlet leaflike, sessile and clasping, of branchlets acuminate-lanceolate, << raceme, reduced upward, coarsely glandular-ciliate on margins; on racemelike branchlet the lower 1 or 2 heads often with a long peduncle and having a terminal head and thus appearing like a short, ascending to spreading 1-headed branch, the basal peduncle of raceme stemlike, 1–170 mm long, decreasing upward along axis, in raceme second and subsequent peduncles shorter eventually giving rise to subsessile or sessile heads; **involucre** ± cylindrical, in range to 11 mm long, phyllaries ca. 13 in 2 series, green, outer phyllaries 5–6 (sometimes interpreted as a calyculus), bases tightly appressed, ovate, 4–5.5 mm long, commonly ascending (spreading) at tip aging erect and stiff in fruit, with a whitish, oval, callous-thickening at base, inner phyllaries typically 8, narrowly lanceolate, 8–10 mm long, somewhat hooded and conspicuously glandular-hirsute at tip, erect and straw-colored in fruit; receptacle ± flat, without bractlets (paleae) but in range typically with a ring of minute, teethlike scales surrounding base of each ovary. **Ligulate flower:** bisexual, bilateral, typically ± 4 mm across, open mornings and often withering before afternoon; **calyx (pappus)** = 25–30 scales, erect, unequal, < 0.5 mm long, whitish with light green base, jagged at tip; **corolla** shallowly 5-toothed; tube cylindrical, 1.5–2 mm long, white, sometimes with a few kinky hairs below throat; throat ± 0.5 mm long, white, typically villous; limb strap-shaped and oblanceolate, 11–16.5 × 3.5–5.5 mm, light blue to blue-lavender or pinkish fading lavender with several darker veins, truncate at tip with short teeth, glandular with capitate hairs on lower surface of teeth; **stamens** 5, fused to upper corolla tube; filaments < 1 mm long; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, ± 3.5 mm long, striped purple and pale purple or white, arrow-shaped to short-tailed at base, rounded at tip, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen

whitish; **pistil** 1, ovary inferior, inversely conic, ± 1 mm long, flattened side-to-side, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, 7.5–11 mm long, with a short nectary and glabrous at base, pubescent above midpoint, 2-branched, the branches spreading becoming recurved, 1.5–2.5 mm long, purplish, with short, ascending hairs; **nectary** ± 0.2 mm long, golden yellow. **Fruits:** cypselae, only forming from several of the outer flowers, inversely conic, in range $1.5\text{--}2.2 \times 0.8\text{--}1.2$ mm, \pm mottled tan and dark brown, 5-angled at base but 4-angled above on 1 side and rounded on out-facing side, glabrous, with short persistent style but beak absent; surface finely and transversely wrinkled and weakly netted; pappus = a crown of many scales 0.2–0.3 mm long. Mid-May–late October.

Naturalized. Perennial herb infrequently found as a roadside weed of areas with homes, but some specimens have been observed away from homes, including along the freeway in Sepulveda Pass. *Cichorium intybus* has a thick taproot that is used as an additive to coffee. This species is a relative of dandelion (*Taraxacum*) producing heads of light blue ligulate flowers, most of which never form fruits. Fruits of chicory have numerous short scales and lack a beak.

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