

Cryptantha clevelandii Greene var. *clevelandii*, CLEVELAND'S CRYPTANTHA, WHITE FORGET-ME-NOT. Annual, taprooted, rosetted when young, 1-stemmed at base, branching 5–80 mm from base, the branches ascending and each with terminal inflorescence, erect (decumbent), in range 10–46 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, basal leaves dead at flowering, hirsute, short-hispid, or hirsute with the hairs having swollen bases (pustulate). **Stems:** cylindric, to 3 mm diameter, typically lacking ridges, green, not glossy, mostly with radiating, stiff hairs but also strigose approaching inflorescence. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade linear to narrowly lanceolate, 15–40 × 0.6–6.5 mm, slightly flared at base, entire, blunt-acute at tip with a minute, yellowish, calluslike point, midrib only visible, sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, hirsute and hispid-pustulate with the longest hairs along lower midrib and near margins, not strigose. **Inflorescence:** spikelike cyme, terminal on each branch, commonly with 1–several forks, each cyme 1-sided, to 160 mm long in fruit, to 40-flowered, buds and open flowers densely coiled at tip, with 2-rows of flowers, flowers subsessile, lacking bracts; peduncle of cyme cylindric, peduncle and axis strigose with upward-pointing hairs; pedicel short, ca. 0.2 mm long in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, at anthesis 2.6–3.5 mm across but increasing afterwards; **calyx** 5-lobed, 1.2–1.5 mm long; tube 1 mm diameter increasing to 1.4 mm in fruit; lobes ± equal, oblong-lanceolate, ca. 1 × 0.3–0.5 mm increasing ca. 2× in fruit, green, with ascending hirsute hairs and spreading pustulate hispid hairs to 2 mm long, internally short-strigose above midpoint; **corolla** 5-lobed, short trumpet-shaped, white, bud with 5 dimples on throat opposite calyx lobes; tube at anthesis ± top-shaped, ca. 0.5 × 0.75–1 mm, light green, becoming stretched by developing fruit to appear more cylindric and pale green; throat ca. 0.7 mm long, yellow, with 5 prominent dimples, internally forming hemispheric golden yellow lobes at orifice; lobes spreading, at anthesis equal becoming subequal, rounded, ca. 0.7 mm long, white, with overlapping margins; **stamens** 5, fused to base of corolla throat dimples, included; filaments < 0.2 mm long, whitish; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.2–0.3 mm long, golden yellow to orange-yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen golden yellow; **nectary disc** beneath ovary, obscure; **pistil** 1, included, ± 0.5 mm long; ovary superior, deeply 4-lobed, lobes ovoid, greenish, smooth, each chamber with 1 ovule; style arising from ovary base in center of lobes, exposed portion ± 1 mm long, pale green, glabrous; stigma capitate. **Fruits:** nutlets, 1(–2), erect, lanceoloid, ca. 1.9 × 0.8 mm, < calyx, glossy tan and sparsely mottled brown, smooth, with symmetric groove on inner face; sterile, undeveloped lobes persistent, whitish; style at least above midpoint of nutlet; calyx 2–2.7 mm long, lobes often with some conspicuous, bristlelike hairs. Mid-March–mid-May.

Native. Annual appearing occasionally in openings in chaparral and coastal sage scrub. *Cryptantha clevelandii* is often difficult to distinguish from *C. microstachys*, which also has a single smooth nutlet, because the defining features are minor, and because lengths of the reproductive parts (calyx, corolla, and single nutlet) increase from the time the flower opens until the fruits are mature, so that features often used in dichotomous keys can be misleading. Identification is fairly certain if the calyx in fruit is at least 2.0 millimeters long, and especially if the lobes have conspicuous hispid hairs. In addition, inflorescence axes of *C. clevelandii* have only strigose hairs, whereas those of *C. microstachys* have mixed strigose and radiating hairs.

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