

Cryptantha intermedia (A. Gray) Greene var. *intermedia*, LARGE-FLOWERED

POPCORNFLOWER. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, branches ascending with disclike callus in angle between stems, erect, 10–60 cm tall; shoots rough-hairy to bristly, the hairs with enlarged bases. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 4 mm diameter, internodes with 2 stripes descending from each leaf but not raised, somewhat glossy, hispid, spreading hairs to 2.2 mm long. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade linear to linear-lanceolate, 10–110 × 2–6 mm, bright green, long-tapered at base, entire, acute with hard, whitish, calluslike point at tip, midrib conspicuously sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, hispid with raised hair bases, hairs erect to spreading. **Inflorescence:** spikelike cyme or panicle of cymes typically in a cluster of 2–3, terminal on main and lateral stems, 1–sided, buds and open flower densely coiled at tip opening straight, hispid with colorless bristles, many-flowered, with 2 rows of flowers, flowers subsessile, essentially lacking bracts, hispid; bract subtending peduncle = cauline leaf; peduncle cylindrical, often < 10 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 5.5–9(–13) mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, fused at base; lobes equal, linear, at anthesis 2–3 mm long increasing to 3.5–5 mm in fruit, densely hispid with spreading bristles on lobes and strigose between lobes, midrib raised, inner surface soft-strigose above midpoint; **corolla** 5-lobed, short trumpet-shaped (short-salverform), white, glabrous, in bud dimples on throat lacking; tube cask-shaped, ± 2.5 mm long, light green, constricted at throat; throat white but aging bright yellow from 5 appendages, appendages opposite lobes, pocketlike projecting inward, short-papillate; lobes overlapping, rounded, 3–6 mm long, bright white; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube at midpoint, included; filaments very short, whitish; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.6 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **nectary disc** beneath ovary, < 0.2 mm tall; **pistil** 1, included; ovary superior, deeply 4-lobed, < 0.3 mm long, lobes lanceoloid, green, with minute bumps; style arising at ovary base from center of lobes, 1.1–1.3 mm long increasing to ± 2 mm in fruit, greenish, glabrous; stigma capitate. **Fruits:** nutlets, (1–)4, erect, widely lanceolate-narrowly ovoid, 1.5–2 mm long, shiny, evenly minutely bumpy to sparingly rough granular, back flat, groove ± open, especially at forked end; style barely exceeding nutlets; calyx ca. 2× nutlet. Late January–Early May.

Native. A common annual, appearing especially on recent burns of chaparral and coastal sage scrub, where, in full sun, densely crowded rosettes may be found in early spring during a wet year. *Cryptantha intermedia* has bright green foliage, and it is hispid but does not have strigose hairs on the stem or inflorescence axes, as does *C. muricata*, which has similar, minutely bumpy nutlets.

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