

Draba cuneifolia Torrey & A. Gray, WEDGE-LEAF DRABA, WEDGE-LEAF WHITLOW GRASS. Annual, short-lived, taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, with a few branches, ascending, in range 2.5–12 cm tall; shoots slender with several basal leaves and several lower cauline leaves, short-pubescent, the hairs < 0.5 mm long, branched and short-stalked with 2–5 arms (unbranched). **Stems:** cylindric, < 1 mm diameter, purplish at base, densely short-pubescent. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, short-petiolate to sessile, without stipules; petiole indistinct, < 2 mm long; blade oblanceolate to narrowly obovate or elliptic, 3–15 × 2–5 mm, entire or with an inconspicuous tooth and sometimes purple on margins, broadly acute at tip with whitish point, with inconspicuous midrib on lower surface, dull, with evenly scattered hairs. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, in range < 15-flowered, with open flowers overtopping buds, lacking bracts, densely short-pubescent with branched hairs; axis stemlike, green; pedicel slender, at anthesis erect and < 0.5 mm long spreading and increasing to 3.5 mm in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 1 mm across, nonshowy; **sepals** 4, erect, equal, elliptic to lanceolate or oblanceolate, ± 1 mm long, with raised center green or purplish and margins and tip white, with scattered, branched hairs on center, deciduous; **petals** 4, erect, linear-oblanceolate, 0.5–0.6 mm long, white, rounded or slightly notched at tip; **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic, with 2 outer short and 4 inner slightly longer; filaments to 1 mm long, of outer stamens 0.2–0.3 mm shorter, whitish; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.1 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **nectaries** 4, minute; **pistil** 1, ca. 0.7 mm long; ovary superior, ellipsoid, green, densely short-pubescent with branched hairs, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules; style ± 0.15 mm long; stigma capitate. **Fruit:** siliqua, dehiscent by 2 valves parallel to septum, to 30-seeded, ± elliptic in outline, ± 8 × 2–2.5 mm, slightly inflated, densely pubescent with branched hairs, seeds in 2 rows on each side of septum; beak < 0.2 mm long. **Seed:** oval-lenticular, 0.7 × 0.45–0.55 mm, orangish brown, conspicuously bladderlike, with a minute swelling at hilum. Late February–late March.

Native. A delicate annual, inconspicuous and seldom seen in range on open slopes in chaparral, so that little is known about its occurrence and flowering habit. *Draba cuneifolia* is a diminutive, nonshowy mustard, and one of the few species in range with branched hairs.

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