

Dudleya verityi K. M. Nakai, VERITY'S DUDLEYA. Perennial herb, leaf succulent, evergreen, taprooted and caudexlike, hemispheric-rosetted, generally forming cespitose clusters of 2–30(–100+) rosettes from branched stem (“caudex”) but sometimes having only 1 rosette, with ascending axillary inflorescences 4–18 cm tall; shoots with terminal rosettes 20–50(–80) mm across, having 6–10 healthy, fully expanded, ascending to spreading leaves, a set of immature leaves in the center, and a set of senescing to dead, shriveled leaves on the under side of the rosette, blue-gray, glabrous, glaucous with whitish wax. **Stems:** below rosettes, 20–100 mm long, 2–10 mm thick, virtually without internodes, internally with water storing tissues and a cylinder of highly specialized wood, covered with periderm and old leaves. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade oblong-lanceolate, 20–50 × 4–8 mm, crescent-shaped to semicircular in \times -section and 2–3 mm thick, broadly attached at base 5–8 mm, entire, acute to acuminate at tip, venation obscure, upper surface concave or flat, glaucous and blue gray becoming purple-gray at tip and on lower surface, wounding purple-red at base, becoming twisted when dry. **Inflorescence:** cymes, axillary, arising from 1–several weathered basal leaves, terminal on long peduncle with 5–15 succulent bracts (“cauline leaves”) helically alternate in a graded series, many-flowered on terminal cyme branches, 1-sided, at top of peduncle typically 2–3 × 2-forked; cyme branches ascending, unbranched or 2-forked, ultimate branches 2–10-flowered, glabrous, glaucous; peduncle ascending, cylindric, in range 30–150 mm long, 3–6 mm diameter below terminal fork, green becoming tinged purplish red on lower 1/3, lacking bracts near base; bracts along peduncle sessile, spreading, triangular to lanceolate, 8–10 × 5–7 mm, clasping at base, acute at tip; ultimate branches 20–70 mm long, with flowers on upper side, succulent bractlet sometimes subtending pedicel but often \pm opposite pedicel and often displaced slightly upward; bractlet deltate-ovate to \pm heart-shaped, to 7 × 4 mm decreasing upward; pedicel ascending to erect, 3–5 × 1–2 mm, erect (not bent) in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, erect, urn-shaped, 5–7 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, fused at base, fleshy, 4–5 × 5–7 mm; lobes erect and appressed to corolla, triangular, 3–4 × 2–2.5 mm, green, glaucous with whitish wax; **corolla** 5-lobed, 10–14 mm long, in bud nearly conic with an angle of $< 50^\circ$ at tip, at anthesis \pm cylindric but with spreading tips; tube 5-pleated, 1.5–2 mm long, whitish or pale yellowish green; lobes spreading, narrowly lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, 8–13 × 2–4 mm, brilliant greenish yellow to lemon yellow but greenish along midvein, stiff, curved to 90° at tip, weakly keeled; **stamens** 10 in 2 whorls, alternate with (outer whorl) and opposite (inner whorl) corolla lobes, fused to corolla tube, included; filaments \pm cylindric, long-tapered, free portion 5–7 mm long, 0.3–5 mm wide at base, slightly longer and wider for filaments alternate with petals, translucent light yellowish green, attached to tube for 1 mm (inner whorl) and 1.5 mm (outer whorl); anthers positioned at base of arching corolla tips, basifixed, dithecal, ellipsoid, 1–1.3 × 0.5 mm, brilliant yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen brilliant yellow; **nectaries** 5, opposite each ovary, kidney-shaped, 1 × 0.3 mm, light yellow or whitish; **pistils** 5, erect, 5–7 mm long; ovaries superior, 4–5 × 1 mm, fused at base for \pm 0.7 mm, pie-shaped in \times -section, whitish, each ovary 1-chambered with many ovules attached to outer side; styles 1–2 mm long, pale to light green; stigma terminal, minute. **Fruits:** follicles, 5, many-seeded, ascending, narrowly lanceoloid, 4–5.5 mm long. **Seed:** \pm lanceoloid, ca. 1 × 0.3 mm, brown, with longitudinal, slightly wavy ridges. Early May–late June.

Native. Leaf-succulent perennial endemic to the westernmost edge of the range growing on volcanic rock faces on north-facing slopes of Conejo Mountain and at several other nearby localities. *Dudleya verityi* tends to form clumps of glaucous basal rosettes, but also can be found growing next to the perennial *D. lanceolata* and the annual *D. blochmaniae*, with which it can hybridize. In addition, *D. verityi* is closely related to *D. cymosa*, with which it can form fertile hybrids, and some workers have hypothesized that within range there are populations of hybrid origin that arose earlier between *D. verityi* and *D. cymosa* var. *agourensis*.

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