

*Ehrendorferia ochroleuca* (Engelm.) T. Fukuhara, WHITE EARDROPS, FIRE HEARTS.

Perennial herb, thick-taprooted, rosetted, several-stemmed at base, initially unbranched later with tufted axillary branches along the ascending to erect flowering stalks, in range 50–235 cm tall in fruit; shoots with feathery basal leaves and cauline leaves, essentially glabrous, blue-gray glaucous; latex colorless; taproot 5–30 mm diameter, not fleshy, with yellowish wood. **Stems:** cylindric, 7–30 mm diameter, when superficial wax removed surface green with at least 5 shallow, yellowish, longitudinal, striped furrows descending from midpetiole of each cauline leaf; pith wide, stems aging hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, (2–)3–4(–5)-pinnately dissected, basal leaves 80–500 mm long, petiolate, without stipules; petiole subcylindric, < 1/3 blade, decreasing upward, flared and flattened at base, somewhat ridged on lower side, sparsely hispid with multicellular processes on margins near base; blade broadly elliptic to oblong or ovate in outline, to 250 mm wide, not flat, with unevenly raised, alternate to  $\pm$  3-parted primary and secondary divisions, somewhat angular; leafy segments typically several-lobed, often wedge-shaped to elliptic or lanceolate in outline, 6–25 mm long, shallowly channeled along segment axes, ultimate lobes narrowly obtuse to acute and 1-veined. **Inflorescence:** panicle of dichasial cymes, terminal on main and lateral shoots, cymes alternate, each several–many-flowered, bracteate; main axis erect to ascending, > vegetative plant,  $\pm$  glaucous; bract alternate if subtending cyme or opposite if subtending branchlet, blade appressed, awl-shaped, 3–5 mm long, green, parallel-veined, red on somewhat serrate margins, becoming scarious and persistent or fragmented; bractlet subtending pedicel absent; pedicel straight, 3.5–5(–10) mm long, glossy. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 15–22 mm across (= spreading petals),  $\pm$  erect; **sepals** 2, spreading,  $\pm$  rectangular, ca. 6  $\times$  3.5 mm, papery reddish brown, serrate on margins, parallel-veined, abscising soon after anthesis (caducous); **petals** 4, opposite decussate, outer 2 petals free, inner 2 petals fused at tip, 20–25 mm long, creamy white; outer petals lanceolate, greenish and saclike at base, spreading-recurved above midpoint, with a red-purple pocket on inner face just below tip, inrolled on margins, acute or truncate at tip; inner petals oblanceolate, nearly as long as outer petals, not saclike at base, with pillowy, crested, inflated keels weakly attached (barely coherent) only at tips, inner spot (adjacent to anthers) red-purple; **stamens** 6, in 2 sets of 3, opposite outer petals, free or filaments scarcely fused at the base; filaments appressed to pistil,  $\pm$  4 mm long and < petals, creamy white, flat and wide below, tapered from broad base and conspicuously crinkled approaching tip, middle filament the widest, 1-veined with vein often asymmetrically positioned; anthers basifixed, dithecal, erect, 1 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **nectaries** 2, in depression at base of the wider 2 stamens, teardrop-shaped, 1 mm long, green; **pistil** 1, at anthesis candle-shaped, 1 mm > stamens, light green; ovary superior, somewhat compressed and 2-lobed on wide face, 1-chambered with many ovules along 2 placentae projecting from outer wall; style whitish with 2 green stripes; stigma thin fan-shaped and 1.5 mm wide to T-shaped and 2.2 mm wide, green, flattened  $\perp$  inner petals. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent from tip by 2 valves splitting from persistent placentae (replum), many-seeded, narrowly ovoid, 15–27  $\times$  6–8 mm, light brown to tan-brown, conic at tip with 4 beaks; beaks < fruit body, awnlike, 1 per valve and 1 per placenta, with sparse long hairs. **Seed:** closed kidney-shaped, 1.3–2  $\times$  1.1–1.6 mm, dull dark reddish brown to black; densely papillate with papilla terminating in a short, hispid hair; aril absent. Late April–late December.

Native. A very tall perennial herb that appears occasionally in chaparral on open slopes and in disturbed places, but which can be extremely abundant in early succession following fire (e.g., during the mid-1990s in the Cold Creek Watershed). *Ehrendorferia ochroleuca* formerly was treated as a species of *Dicentra*, and some authors consider these to be members of a different family (Fumariaceae). Flowers of *E. ochroleuca* are magnificent in bilateral design, and they cannot be mistaken for any other species in the flora. Typically this species flowers mainly in late spring and summer, but populations can be found with some new flowers late in the year and while other inflorescences on the same plant have mature fruits.

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