

Epilobium campestre (Jepson) Hoch and W. L. Wagner, SMALL WILLOW HERB, SMOOTH SPIKE-PRIMROSE, SMOOTH BOISDUVALIA. Annual, taprooted, lacking basal rosette, 1–several-stemmed at base, with decumbent to ascending branches, in range 8–30 cm tall; shoots with cauline leaves crowded along stem, short-hirsute to sparsely hairy (glabrate). **Stems:** cylindric, to 3 mm diameter, green becoming tannish, smooth but later with outer tissues peeling in irregular strips at plant base. **Leaves:** opposite decussate at base of plant and helically alternate throughout canopy, simple, sessile, without stipules; petiole < 1 mm long; blade lanceolate to narrowly oblong, 4–25(–35) × (1.5–)3–5(–8) mm, often folded somewhat upward from midrib, entire to minutely dentate on margins, acute often with blunt callus point at tip, pinnately veined with only midrib conspicuous and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** leafy spike with crowded, alternately arranged flowers, bracteate, short-hairy; bractlet subtending flower at anthesis leaflike, narrowly ovate to ovate. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 1 mm across, often cleistogamous; bud and flower erect; hypanthium above ovary, funnel-shaped, 0.3–1.1 mm long, short-hairy, **nectary** at base of hypanthium absent; **sepals** 4, mostly not separating, narrowly triangular, 0.7–2 mm long, green, with midvein, short-hairy; **petals** 4, narrowly oblanceolate and ± truncate at top, 1–2 mm long, light purplish pink with darker midvein; **stamens** 8 in 2 sets, free, arising from hypanthium, subequal, included; filaments < sepals, white; anthers dorsifixed near base, dithecal, cream-colored or light purple, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen creamy white, in permanently united tetrads (visible at 10×), held in a mass by minute (viscin) threads; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly ellipsoid, at anthesis ca. 1 mm long, straight, 4-chambered, each chamber packed with 2 stacks of ovules; style short with stigma at same level as stamens. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent with 4 valves, many-seeded, cylindric 3.5–9 mm long, splitting from top initially to just above midpoint, short-hairy, 4-chambered. **Seed:** lanceoloid, 0.9–1.3 mm long, brown, tuft of numerous hairs absent.

Native. Annuals of vernal pools known from one locality next to an exit of Highway 101 in Newbury Park, during springtime only when rainfall adequate, and formerly known from a similar habitat in Brentwood, now out of range, at the site of the Veterans Hospital but present elsewhere in Los Angeles County. *Epilobium campestre* formerly was treated at *E. pygmaeum* (Speg.) Hoch & P. H. Raven and *Boisduvalia glabella* (Nutt.) Walp. This species has tiny, axillary cleistogamous flowers and therefore develops quickly into fruit. The capsule splits by four valves but not quite to midpoint, revealing two stacks of seeds per chamber, which is an unusual feature in the genus.

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