

*Eriastrum densifolium* (Benth.) H. Mason subsp. *elongatum* (Benth.) H. Mason, PERENNIAL WOOL STAR. Perennial, suffrutescent, spinescent, with erect to ascending principal branches, in range 5–30 cm tall; shoots with leaves having spine-tipped lobes, grayish white, woolly. **Stems:** cylindric, tough and wiry, greenish turning purple beneath woolly cover. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply pinnately lobed with 1–5 pairs of lateral lobes, sessile, without stipules; blade to 25 mm long, axis ca 1–1.5 mm wide at base, lateral lobes ascending, linear, 1–6.5 × 0.5 mm, with the penultimate pair the longest, terminal lobe to 9 mm long, entire, venation obscure. **Inflorescence:** headlike cyme, terminal, mostly < 15-flowered, flowers sessile, bracteate, densely woolly with hairs hiding calyx; bractlet subtending flower unlobed and linear or deeply pinnately 5-lobed like cauline leaves, 6–11 mm long, green, woolly, erect terminal lobes not exceeding corolla. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 8–10.5 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, 4.5–5.5 mm long; tube 3–3.5 mm long, densely woolly, with 5 green veins connected by wide translucent-membranous panels; lobes erect, unequal, the longer lobes 0.5–0.7 mm > the shortest lobe, commonly purple, spine-tipped; **corolla** 5-lobed, trumpet-shaped (salverform); tube cylindric, ca. 8 mm × 0.7 mm, pale violet; throat funnel-shaped, 2–2.5 mm long; lobes lanceolate, in range 4–5.2 × 1.5–2.1 mm, blue-violet, often with 5 darker veins; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla throat ± at same level, fused to throat alternate with corolla lobes, exerted; filaments threadlike, 1.5–3 mm long, pale lavender more faded approaching tip; anthers basifixed, dithecal, arrow-shaped, 2–2.5 mm long, whitish to pale violet, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale violet; **nectary disc** surrounding pistil, ringlike, low, green; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ellipsoid, 1 mm long, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule attached to center; style ± 10 mm long, white, 3-branched, the stigmatic branches < 0.5 mm long. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, 1–3-seeded, ellipsoid, 2–4 mm long, light straw-colored. **Seed:** narrowly ellipsoid to lanceoloid with acute ends or ± triangular with obliquely truncate base and acute tip, 1.6–2.5 × 0.5–1 mm, straw-colored, tip and margins at both ends whitish, flattish and broadly grooved on 1 side and convex on other side. Early July–early September.

Native. Perennial, low-growing in full sun from crevices in sandstone in the vicinity of Castro Peak. *Eriastrum densifolium* is woolly and has spine tips on lobes of leaves, bractlets, and the calyx. This species flowers during midsummer; the attractive blue-violet flowers project from the terminal, densely woolly, headlike inflorescences. For this subspecies, the corolla tube and throat should be at least fifteen millimeters in length, but ours are much shorter, and the stigmas in our population do not seem to be exerted when anthers are releasing pollen.

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