

Eriastrum filifolium (Nutt.) Wooton & Standl., THREADLEAF WOOL-STAR. Annual, taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, erect, 4–30+ cm tall; shoots with leaves having spine tips, sparsely tomentose to woolly. **Stems:** cylindric, to 1 mm diameter, tough, greenish mostly aging purple or reddish brown and becoming tannish at base, sparsely tomentose or woolly. **Leaves:** helically alternate, unlobed or 3-lobed from near base, sessile, without stipules; blade ascending to spreading, 15–40 mm long, unlobed blade or lobes linear, 12–32 × 0.5–1.2 mm long (terminal lobe) and 3.5–6 × 0.5 mm (lateral lobes), venation obscure. **Inflorescence:** headlike cyme, terminal and axillary, 1–6-flowered, ellipsoidal, flowers sessile, bracteate, woolly; bractlet subtending flower 2–3-lobed, 6.5–8.5 mm long, green, lobes linear to linear-triangular, 5.5–7 mm long (central lobe) and 2.5–4.5 mm long (lateral lobes), spine-tipped, woolly becoming glabrescent approaching tips. **Flower:** bisexual, ± radial, ca. 4 mm diameter; **calyx** 5-lobed, 6–8 mm long; tube 3–5 mm long, externally densely woolly with 5 broad, green veins connected by wide, translucent membranous panels; lobes erect, unequal, narrowly acute and spine-tipped, 2.5–3 mm long, green but sometimes dark red at tip; **corolla** 5-lobed, trumpet-shaped (salverform), in range 7–9 mm long; tube cylindric, ca. 5 mm long, whitish to pale yellow approaching throat, 1.2 mm wide at ovary; throat 0.8–1.2 mm long, expanding to ca. 1.5 mm wide at orifice, dark yellow at base and fading upwards; lobes oblanceolate to elliptic, 2.5–3.2 × 0.9–1.1 mm, moderate purple to violet with darker midstripe; **stamens** 5, erect, fused to throat alternate with corolla lobes, exerted beyond orifice but shorter than petal lobes; filaments threadlike, 1.6–1.8 mm long, pale yellow grading upward to purplish below anther, attached ± at same level at base of throat (1–1.5 mm below sinuses); anthers basifixed, dithecal, ovoid-ellipsoid and deeply cordate at base, 0.7 × 0.4 mm (dried), pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **nectary disc** surrounding pistil, ringlike, low, green; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ellipsoid, 1.7 × 0.7 mm, 3-chambered, each chamber with several ovules attached at center; style 4.4 mm long, white, 3-branched, the stigmatic branches ± 0.5 mm long, papillate on inner face. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent by 3 valves, with 3–5 seeds per chamber, ellipsoid, 4–5 × 1.7–2 mm, straw-colored. **Seed:** ± ovate to trapezoid and faces commonly flattened, 1.2–1.5 × 0.7–0.9 mm.

Native. Annual collected only twice in SMM, in 1902 by George B. Grant 502 (POM) from an unknown location, and in 1975 by Linda Allen from Century Ranch (SD).

Eriastrum filifolium has been reported elsewhere in range, but these cases are more likely misidentifications of the widespread, brightly blue-flowered *E. sapphirinum*, whereas *E. filifolium* has a shorter corolla with moderate purple to violet lobes and a much longer calyx. *Eriastrum filifolium* also has much longer capsules with more seeds than those of *E. sapphirinum*.

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