

Ericameria ericoides (Less.) Jepson, CALIFORNIA GOLDENBUSH, HEATHER GOLDENWEED, MOCK HEATHER. Shrub, evergreen, highly branched with new, flattened, unexpanded axillary shoots from every node in canopy, principal branches ascending to erect, in range 50–140 cm tall; shoots overall with helically alternate arrangement but unexpanded axillary shoots tufted (fasciclelike) and fan-shaped, with alternate distichous flexible leaves oriented in vertical sprays without internodes, sparsely short-hairy becoming glabrescent, dotted with tack-shaped glandular hairs sunken in pits, typically not viscid while on plant, leaf surfaces adherent with resin, pleasantly aromatic. **Stems:** indistinctly ridged, on main stem with internodes initially covered with green decurrent leaf bases having inconspicuous glands, not sharply furrowed, puberulent to short-villous, soon turning brownish and forming light brown periderm. **Leaves:** alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade ascending to spreading or recurved, subcylindric-linear, when full expanded 4–16 × 0.5–0.7 mm, entire, obtuse to acute at tip, with inconspicuous midrib, sparsely short-villous becoming glabrescent and also dotted with many slightly sunken resin glands. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal, cymelike arrays of several heads, collectively with 100+ heads in a domelike display covering each principal shoot in the canopy, head radiate, ca. 10 mm across, in range with 2–6 ray flowers and 8–16(–18) disc flowers, bracteate, short-hairy and glandular like shoot; peduncle evident, > 1 mm long, not clearly differentiated from subtending lateral shoot, short-villous to tomentose, with 1–several leaflike bracts; **involucre** subcylindric, becoming inversely conic in fruit, in range 5–7.8 × 3.6–5 mm, phyllaries in range 24–40 in at least 5 series, outer phyllaries ovate, > 2 × 1 mm, light green with dark vein at base to dark green and acuminate to sharp-pointed (cuspidate) at tip, inner phyllaries ± oblong-elliptic to oblanceolate, < 7 × 1.5 mm, green, membranous and jagged to fringed on margins, acute to rounded and ciliate at tip, 1-veined, glandless, sometimes weakly covered by scales; receptacle without bractlets (paleae), pitted with a crown of teeth surrounding each ovary. **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, 1–2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 30–45 capillary bristles in 1 whorl, bristles 4–6 mm long, whitish to light tan; **corolla** unlobed or 2-lobed, 7–8 mm long; tube narrowly cylindric, 2–3 mm long; limb oblong-oval, 5 × 1 mm, bright yellow, originally flat but becoming strongly recurved 720°, 2-toothed or acute at tip; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, ellipsoid, ± 2 mm long, light green, 5-ribbed, short-strigose, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style threadlike, 6–7 mm long, 2-branched, the branches spreading, unequal 1–1.5 mm long, glabrous. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, < 1 mm across, mostly with stamens and style exerted 3–4 mm (several flowers of head having stamens and style included); **calyx (pappus)** of 40–50 capillary bristles in 1 whorl, bristles 5–7 mm long, whitish to light tan; **corolla** 5-lobed, 6–7 mm long; tube ± 4 mm long, greenish yellow, with scattered short hairs above midpoint; throat gradually expanded then bell-shaped, ± 2.5 mm long, 5-veined to sinuses; lobes ascending to recurved, triangular to acuminate, 1 mm long, yellow; **stamens** 5, fused to top of corolla tube; filaments 4 mm long, yellow; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, exerted to 2 mm, basifixed, dithecal, < 3 mm long, yellow, rounded at base, acuminate at tip, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, ellipsoid, ± 2 mm long, light green, 5-ribbed, short-strigose, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted 2–2.5 mm above stamens, 6–7 mm long, 2-branched, the branches equal, 1.5–1.8 mm long, yellow, short hairy-papillate on outer face. **Fruits:** cypselae, monomorphic, subcylindric, 4–4.2 mm long, brown, 8–10

ribbed, sparsely sericeous; pappus bristles to 7 mm long, off-white to brown. Mid-August–early December.

Native. Shrub occurring on coastal bluffs, back dunes, and sandy flats near the ocean, with a large population at Point Dume Natural Reserve, growing with *Leptosyne gigantea* and *Croton californicus*. *Ericameria ericoides* is distinctive because it has emerging axillary shoots that are vertically flattened and fan-shaped, with alternate distichous leaves and lacking internodes. Its shoots are not sticky while on the plant, but become viscid and more aromatic after they are collected due to the release of resins. Most plants have their earliest flowers open during September, so California goldenbush is a species that primarily blooms during the fall.

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