

Eriogonum cinereum Benth., COASTAL WILD BUCKWHEAT. Shrub, semi-evergreen, much-branched with spreading to ascending (erect) shoots, 60–150 cm tall, canopy height \leq width; shoots with cauline leaves and smaller leaves appearing clustered on unexpanded axillary shoots, grayish, densely tomentose and short-tomentose. **Stems:** shallowly ridged to smooth cylindrical, straight to somewhat zigzagged, densely hairy, pale ashy gray; bark fissured and peelable, outer bark gray, inner bark brown. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules (no ocrea); petiole 1–15 mm long, flared at base and clasping or sometimes encircling stem node, becoming winged approaching blade; blade ovate or broadly elliptic to oblong or broadly obovate, 15–46 \times 8–25 mm, tapered or broadly tapered to truncate at base, entire to short-crenate and usually wavy on margins, obtuse to rounded or acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins slightly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface gray to gray-green and somewhat cobblestonelike, sparsely whitish to tannish short-tomentose, lower surface densely white short-tomentose. **Inflorescence:** involucre-enclosed units (cymes) in terminal, dense, ball-like clusters in 3-dimensional arrays = upper half of plant (to 450 mm long), flowering at each fork, many-flowered, at principal forks having 1–2 involucre, in larger clusters with 3–10 sessile involucre and 8–30 mm across, at peak bloom with many open flowers, each involucre containing 1 cyme, bracteate, densely hairy; principal axis forked at 2–5 successive nodes, with long, straight to crooked internodes to 170 mm long (the lowest internode), 1-order branches typically 2(3 with 1 suppressed, sometimes 4 but unequal), 2-order branchlets 2(3 with 1 suppressed), sometimes with a 3-order branchlet or suppressed branchlets, branchlets tomentose; bracts 3 per node, narrowly lanceolate to elliptic or oblong, $< 6 \times 1.5$ –2 mm (the lowest nodes) reduced to 2×0.5 mm (upper nodes); cluster with 1 sessile involucre with 1–2 condensed branchlets having 1–3 flowering nodes; bracts subtending involucre 3, fused to midpoint, appressed, acute, to 1.5 mm long, densely hairy. **Involucre:** narrowly top-shaped to funnel-shaped, 2.7–4(–5) \times 2.2–2.5 mm, 15–25-flowered, flowers opening during several weeks, \pm 5-angled and 5-toothed with 5 green ribs, the teeth rounded, 0.2–0.5 mm long, tomentose, membranous margin between ribs concealed by dense tomentum; bractlets subtending pedicel 2 and fused to pedicel base, bristlelike. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 4–5 mm across; **perianth** 6-lobed, lobes (tepals) in 2 whorls, funnel-shaped, densely white-villous; tube bell-shaped, \pm 0.5 mm long; lobes \pm monomorphic, narrowly obovate and cupped, 2–2.5 \times 0.8–1.2 mm, white with green midstripe turning rose to reddish brown, the midstripe often wider on lobes of outer whorl; **nectary** obscure; **stamens** 9, fused to perianth tube; filaments exerted, spreading, ca. 2.5 mm long, white, villous at base; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, \pm 0.5 mm long, vermilion to fuchsia, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pinkish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, 3-angled, 1–1.5 mm long, white and pink, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 3, 1.5–2.5 mm long, white; stigma minutely spheric, rose. **Fruit:** achene (diclesium), ovoid, 2 mm long, dull brown, unequally 3-angled, glabrous. (Late March) Mid-June–early January.

Native. Low shrub common in coastal sage scrub on rocky canyon slopes and roadcuts, especially at lower elevations west of Temescal Canyon on the coastal side of the range (SMM), but with healthy populations at interior sites, including Wildwood Regional Park (SH) and SMMNRA Satwiwa (SMM). *Eriogonum cinereum* has grayish foliage due to the presence of dense white hairs, and it begins to flower during the hot, dry season.

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