

Eriogonum cithariforme S. Watson var. *agninum* (Greene) Reveal, CITHARA

BUCKWHEAT. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, mostly dichotomously branched with ascending, photosynthetic, flowering branches, erect, 10–80 cm tall; shoots with short-lived basal leaves and cauline leaves formed at several congested nodes on the lower 25 mm of stem, basal leaves senescent at flowering, axis leafless above, tomentose at base to glabrous above, glaucous. **Stems:** cylindric, to 4 mm diameter, green becoming reddish. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules (no ocrea); petiole channeled, 5–30 mm long, narrowly winged above midpoint, often densely tomentose and sometimes aging glabrate on lower side; blade ovate to round, 4–25 × 3–25 mm, cordate at base, entire and wavy on margins, rounded at tip, pinnately veined, densely white-tomentose but upper surface becoming sparsely tomentose. **Inflorescence:** involucre-enclosed units (cymes) in terminal, 3-dimensional, cymelike arrays, with ascending first-order branches and second-order (third-order) branchlets, forks with 2(3 sometimes at lower nodes) unequal axes, branchlets having 1 sessile involucre per node at almost every node, terminal axes unbranched for 2–8 nodes, the involucre enclosing 25–39 flowers in a dense, headlike cluster, flowers emerging successively from involucre on exerted pedicels; internodes to 60 mm long on lower inflorescence to 5 mm long at tips of axes; bracts 3 at each reproductive or sterile node, appressed to stem and fused as short tube with 3 teeth, sheathing stem and lower part of involucre, 3-ridged with each ridge extending to tooth, reddish (even if stem green), tube ca. 1.2 mm long, teeth deltate, 0.8–0.9 mm, on concealed inner surface with ascending white hairs. **Involucre:** appressed to axis, sessile, narrowly vase-shaped and 5-toothed, 4–4.5 × 1.4–1.5 mm, 5-ribbed, green + membranous between ribs or ribs aging reddish, teeth ± 0.3 mm long, glabrous, internally tomentose on teeth and upper 1/4 of involucre tube; bractlets subtending pedicel 2, slender, ca. 3 mm long, barbed at tip; pedicel slender, 3.3–4.1 mm long, persistent after flowers abscise. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, saucer-shaped, 3–3.7 mm across; **perianth** 6-lobed, lobes (tepals) in 2 whorls, slightly dimorphic, glabrous; perianth tube bell-shaped, 0.5–0.6 mm long, green; lobes cupped-obovate, 1.4–1.7 × 0.7–1.2 mm (outer whorl) and 1.4–1.7 × 0.5–0.8 mm (inner whorl), inner lobes narrower than outer lobes, white with green midstripe, becoming reddish with dark red midstripe (outer lobes) or sometimes remaining whitish approaching tip (inner lobes); **stamens** 9, fused to top of perianth tube; filaments spreading, 1.4–2.2 mm long, whitish, glabrous except short-pilose at base; anthers versatile, dithecal, 0.3–0.5 mm long, dark pinkish to light orange-pink fading with age, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow to pale amber; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, fusiform and weakly 3-angled, 0.8–1 × 0.3 mm, pinkish, papillate, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 3, ca. 1 mm long, white, becoming strongly reflexed and appressed to developing fruit; stigmas spheric-capitate, ca. 2× width of style tip. **Fruit:** achene (diclesium), ± inversely pear-shaped, ca. 2 × 0.75–1 mm, mostly brownish or dark purplish red but light tan at base, short-acuminate at base, long-acuminate and 3-sided above midpoint, glabrous at base to ± papillate above, surface with a longitudinally elongated rectangular pattern; styles persistent and reflexed. Mid-May–summer (December).

Native. Annual occurring in the western half of SMM, e.g., Tapia State Park, Upper Sycamore Canyon, and La Jolla Canyon, on slopes of volcanic rubble in coastal sage scrub or in *Ceanothus* chaparral. Local plants of *Eriogonum cithariforme* var. *agninum* have an

involucre that is longer than described in the literature for this species and variety, and the fruits locally are also longer than expected.

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