

Eriogonum elongatum Benth. var. *elongatum*, LONG-STEM WILD BUCKWHEAT. Subshrub or perennial herb, winter-deciduous, woody taprooted, ± rosetted, several-stemmed at base, canopy = branched inflorescences ascending to spreading, 60–150 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and some cauline leaves restricted to basal 300 mm, with photosynthetic inflorescence axes, leaves typically senescent at flowering, woolly with longitudinally oriented hairs and tomentose. **Stems:** shallowly grooved, to 4 mm diameter (current year), green appearing gray with woolly hairs; woody stems on old plants to 8 mm diameter, outer bark grayish brown and peeling, exposed new orange-brown bark. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, short-petiolate, without stipules (no ocrea); petiole 5–20 mm long, sheathing node, thin and paler on margins, tomentose to woolly; blade ovate or narrowly ovate to lanceolate-oblong, narrowly oblong, ± elliptic, or lanceolate, 10–50 × 5–24 mm, broadly tapered at base, entire to toothed and wavy or crisped on margins, obtuse to acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, upper surface gray to gray-green, densely tomentose become nearly glabrate, lower surface whitish from dense hair. **Inflorescence:** involucre-enclosing cyme in terminal, cymelike arrays, 3-dimensional, with ascending first-order and second-order wandlike branches having long internodes, principal branches having several–12 widely spaced flowering nodes, with 1 erect, sessile involucre potentially at each node but never at branch forks, the involucre enclosing many flowers in a dense headlike cluster, flowers emerging successively from involucre on exerted pedicels; basal axis to 300 mm long; axes green but appressed white-woolly; bracts at each reproductive or sterile node 3, fused into a crownlike whorl appressed to stem, red on lower inflorescence and mostly green on upper inflorescence, bract tube 1.5–2 mm long, woolly, lobes ± equal, awl-shaped and acuminate, (1–)2.5–6 mm long, reduced upward, woolly on both surfaces; first-order axis to 1100 mm long, unbranched or with 1–6 forks at successive nodes, the lowest 1–2 forks with 1–2(–3) second-order branches but branches unequal and never more than 2 branches developed fully to bear flowers, the second-order axes diverging at > 60°, third-order branchlets absent. **Involucre:** narrowly bell-shaped to oblong-cylindric and 5-toothed, (4–)6–7 × 2–4 mm long, green or aging reddish on 5 low ribs, translucent between ribs, the teeth low and ± 0.3(–0.6) mm long, densely white-woolly externally and also internally above midpoint (concealing membranous margins between ribs); bractlets subtending pedicel 2, thin, ≤ pedicel, barbed; pedicel ± cylindric and thin, ± elastic, 1–1.5 mm > involucre. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 3–4 mm across, aging pendent; **perianth** 6-lobed, lobes (tepals) in 2 whorls, 2.5–3.3 mm long, glabrous; tube funnel-shaped, ca. 0.7 mm long; lobes ± monomorphic, oblong to obovate, of outer whorl slightly broader, of inner whorl slightly longer, white or blushed light pink with green midstripe aging rose; **nectary** on perianth tube; **stamens** 9, fused to perianth tube above nectary; filaments exerted, ascending, 2–4 mm long, whitish, short-pilose at base but hairs not projecting from corolla tube; anthers versatile, dithecal, 0.3–0.4 mm long, deep rose aging darker, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid and strongly 3-angled, white and pink, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 3, ± 1.5 mm long, white; stigmas minute and spheroid, pink. **Fruit:** achene (diclesium), ovoid and unequally 3-angled, 2–2.5(–3) mm long, narrow, dull dark brown, glabrous. Late July–late December.

Native. Subshrub (when young perennial herb), found fairly commonly in grasslands and on dry, exposed slopes throughout the range, growing in full sun. *Eriogonum elongatum* has ascending to spreading, green, photosynthetic reproductive axes that appear gray because they are covered with woolly tomentum. This species flowers during summer and fall months on long, wandlike reproductive axes having long internodes. The involucre are sessile, as in most wild buckwheats, and the headlike clusters of flowers form spheroidal clusters widely spaced along the branchlets. Some individuals have white flowers whereas neighboring plants can have predominately pinkish flowers.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson