

Eriogonum wrightii Benth. var. *membranaceum* Jepson, RINGED-STEM BASTARD-SAGE. Subshrub, evergreen, branched throughout, with ascending flowering shoots, 6–50 cm tall, height < width; shoots grayish, with cauline leaves and leaves tightly clustered on dwarf axillary shoots, when young low woolly-tomentose. **Stems:** cylindric, with short internodes marked by reddish petiolar sheaths, densely woolly until replaced by periderm, the hairs grayish white; initial bark light brown. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, short-petiolate with sheathing base, without stipules (no ocrea); petiole forming a basal ring 0.4–1 mm long; blade linear to elliptic or oblanceolate, 1.5–10 × 0.4–1 mm, not leathery, entire and strongly inrolled under (revolute) on margins, acute at tip, only midrib conspicuous on upper surface, upper surface thinly spiderweblike-woolly to glabrate, lower surface densely matted white-woolly. **Inflorescence:** involucre-enclosed units (cymes) in terminal, spikelike arrays of sessile, axillary involucre, involucre 1(2) per node, each surrounding a cyme of < 15 flowers; principal axis 1–3, wandlike, 15–80 mm long with internodes 5–12 mm long, low woolly-tomentose; bracts 3 fused in whorl at each node, appressed, sessile, acute-triangular, 1.5–2.5 mm long, green or orange-red to purple, with midrib or not, tomentose. **Involucre:** bell-shaped and typically 5-lobed, 2–3 mm long, green or orangish aging wine red or purplish, appearing fused by dense white wool, the lobes acute, < tube, with membranous margins; bractlets subtending each pedicel 2, threadlike, < 1 mm long, rust-colored, hairy; pedicel ± elastic, of different lengths, whitish. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 4–4.5 mm across; **perianth** 6-lobed in 2 whorls, broadly funnel-shaped, glabrous; tube bell-shaped, ± 0.5 mm long, green; lobes (tepals) ± monomorphic, oblong to obovate, ± 2.5 mm long, white with rose or green midstripe, the bases of outer lobes slightly narrower than lobes of inner whorl; **nectary** on perianth tube; **stamens** 9, fused to base of perianth tube, exerted, spreading; filaments 3–3.5 mm long, white, densely pilose at base; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.5–0.6 mm long, red, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale pink; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, fusiform and 3-angled, white to greenish, densely papillate-hairy, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 3, ± 1 mm long, white; stigma capitate, minute, lavender. **Fruit:** achene (diclesium), ovoid, 2.5–3 × 1.5–1.7 mm, brown with pale outer cover, acuminate at tip, outer cover 3-ridged above midpoint, the ridges conspicuously papillate. Late October–mid-January.

Native. Subshrub growing on isolated sandstone outcrops in SMM, sometimes with *Lotus argophyllus* and *Deinandra minthornii*. *Eriogonum wrightii* is a widespread perennial species with numerous named varieties; our variety *membranaceum* has sheathing petiole bases, hence the name ringed-stem bastard-sage. Our populations have fully inrolled leaves produced in tight clusters along the branches, as well as the curious feature of flowering only during the coldest months of the year.

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