

Eriophyllum multicaule (DC.) A. Gray, MANYSTEM WOOLLY SUNFLOWER. Annual, fine-taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, mostly having spreading, opposite decussate lateral branches, decumbent to ascending, 2.5–5 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves but basal leaves withered at flowering, white-woolly to loosely woolly and minutely glandular-hairy with scattered hairs having colorless heads, strongly aromatic. **Stems:** cylindric, < 1 mm diameter, tough and wiry, loosely woolly. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, mostly short 3-lobed at or above midblade, or only at tip, petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile (cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole indistinct from long-tapered blade, to 8 mm long; blade wedge-shaped to obovate or oblanceolate, to 8 × 4 mm, long-tapered at base, terminal lobe blunt-acute to obtuse, lateral lobes shorter, lobes somewhat fleshy and slightly cupped, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, white-woolly aging sparsely woolly to ± glabrescent. **Inflorescence:** heads, in leafy, cymelike arrays, terminal and axillary, array of 1–several heads, head radiate, 6–7 mm across, of (3–)4–5(–7) ray flowers and 13–23 disc flowers, bracteate, loosely white-woolly; bract subtending peduncle leaflike; peduncle ascending to erect, 0.5–1 mm long, densely tomentose to woolly and with glandular hairs; **involucre** bell-shaped and appearing round-angled, 2.5–3.5 mm diameter, phyllaries (3–)4–5(–7) in 1 series (= ray flowers), obovate and cupped around ray flower, ± 4 mm long, obtuse at tip; externally woolly, internally glossy and glabrous; receptacle conic, with slight depressions beneath ovary, without bractlets (paleae). **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, 1.5–2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 10–15 scales, lanceolate to oblanceolate or oblong, 0.7–1.1 mm long, translucent to white and scarious, fused at base, jagged at tip and acuminate on narrow scales; **corolla** 2-lobed; tube narrowly cylindric, 1.3–1.5 × 0.3 mm, pale green at base to yellow at throat, expanded around style base, with glandular hairs; limb broadly elliptic to heart-shaped, 1.8–2.1 × 1.2–1.5 mm, vivid yellow to strong yellow, slightly notched; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, club-shaped and slightly bowed, 1.7 × 0.3 mm, pale green, with ascending short hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style slightly exerted or included, ± 1.3 mm long, 2-branched, swollen and translucent at base changing to yellow above, the stigmatic branches 0.2 mm long, yellow, divergent and somewhat straight. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 1.8 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 10–15 scales, lanceolate to oblanceolate or oblong, 0.7–1.1 mm long, translucent to white and scarious, fused at base, jagged at tip and acuminate on narrow scales; **corolla** 5-lobed, ca. 2 mm long; tube cylindric, ± 1 × 0.4 mm, pale green, sparsely glandular-hairy; throat broadly cup-shaped (wide-flaring from tube), 1 mm across, sparsely glandular-hairy; lobes spreading with recurved tips, deltate, 0.5–0.6 mm long, throat and lobes vivid yellow; **stamens** 5, fused top of corolla tube; filaments 0.6–0.7 mm long, yellow; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, exerted, basifixed, dithecal, 0.8–0.9 mm long, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, club-shaped and straight, ca. 1.7 × 0.5 mm, pale green, with short, ascending hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted ca. 0.5 mm, 2 mm long, 2-branched, **nectary** swollen and translucent at base to yellow above, the branches 0.4 mm long, divergent.. **Fruits:** cypselae, monomorphic, club-shaped, 1.6–2 mm long, black to dark brown, bowed (ray flowers) to straight (disc flowers), sparsely short-strigose (± glabrate) with upward-pointing hairs, cypselae of ray flowers sometimes somewhat angled; pappus scales ± fused at base, oval or lanceolate to

oblanceolate, 0.7–1.1 mm long, scarious, pale tan, jagged at tip, often forming as a persistent crown (coroniform); corolla often persistent (hugging swollen base of style), glandular-hairy. March–April.

Native. Annual collected only once decades ago at Point Dume. *Eriophyllum multicaule* is a small annual, woolly on young growth and especially the heads. In California, this is the annual species of *Eriophyllum* having a very short peduncle and showy, yellow ray flowers, whereas the other species either lack ray flowers or have peduncles longer than ten millimeters, or both.

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