

Euphorbia polycarpa Benth., SMALLSEED SMALLMAT, GOLONDRINA. Perennial herb, taprooted, several-many-stemmed at base, mat-forming, branches diverging at 30–60°, prostrate or sometimes ascending, not rooting at nodes, < 4 cm (ascending) to < 2 cm tall (prostrate); monoecious; shoots strongly 2-dimensional (plagiotropic), glabrous to sparsely short-hairy, slightly glaucous, latex white, copious. **Stems:** cylindrical, < 1 mm diameter, flexible, light green becoming tannish or pinkish above, internodes 1.5–15 mm long, the nodes swollen but without any protuberances of adventitious roots. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, short-petiolate to sessile, with stipules; stipules 2 (4 per node), 2 on upper side free, 2 on lower side fused across node, narrowly triangular, 0.7–1.3 mm long, white or sometimes reddish at tip, acuminate at tip (free stipules) and 2-forked (fused stipules), fringed on margins; petiole 0.3–0.6 mm long, curved to orient leaves horizontally, greenish aging pinkish; blade broadly ovate to oblong or roundish, 1.5–5 × 1.1–4 mm, oblique (symmetric) and truncate to cordate at base, entire and often whitish becoming reddish on margins, broadly acute or obtuse to rounded at tip, 1- or 3-veined, gray-green. **Inflorescence:** cyathium (= involucre with staminate flowers and 1 pistillate flower), axillary, solitary or in leafy, cymelike arrays; peduncle 0.5–0.8 mm long; cyathium 1.3–2.7 mm wide (including spreading glands and appendages); **involucre** bell-shaped, ca. 1.1 × 1.3 mm, green, with 5 bracts and 4 glands, the bracts of involucre fused most of length, acuminate with acute tips, the tips deep rose and hairy, light pinkish on margins and below glands (purplish), typically glabrous (hairy), internally hairy, the glands alternate with bracts (1 absent), nectar-producing, raised, transversely elliptic to oblong, 0.3–0.4 × 0.4–0.65 mm, fleshy, burgundy, depressed in center, appendaged from just below gland, the appendage petal-like, fan-shaped, 0.3–0.5 × 0.6–1.3(–1.5) mm, > gland, white, entire or scalloped on outer margin; staminate flowers 15–20(–32) in clusters of 3–4(–6), each cluster associated with a bractlet, each flower on a pedicel; bractlet oblanceolate, ± 1 mm long, white, partially or entirely attached along 1 margin to inner wall of involucre, hairy above midpoint, the pedicel appearing like a filament, short and exerting flowers sequentially; pistillate flower on a pedicel-like stalk (gynophore), at anthesis gynophore short and erect with only styles exposed, soon after gynophore elongating and becoming recurved with maturing ovary exerted. **Staminate flower:** reduced to 1 stamen; filament ± 0.2 mm long, white to light pink; anthers exerted sequentially 0.7–1 mm beyond orifice, conspicuously dithecal, each sac spheroid, < 0.35 mm long, deep yellowish pink to deep rose-red, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen golden yellow. **Pistillate flower:** reduced to 1 pistil; ovary superior, 3-lobed broadly ovoid, < 1 mm, light green with pink to reddish edges and grooves, glabrous to sparsely short-hairy, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 3, ± 0.4 mm long, 2-branched at or below midpoint, reddish rose below fork, the branches club-shaped, fleshy, burgundy; stigmas minute. **Fruit:** capsule, 3-seeded, 3-lobed and broadly triangular-ovoid, 1.3–1.6 mm long, glabrous, elastically dehiscent along septa and chambers into 6 dry valves (some valve-pairs remaining attached at base) and expelling seeds. **Seed:** quadrangular-oblong, 0.9–1.2 × 0.6–0.8 mm, orangey brown beneath frosty-white epidermis, very finely textured (not smooth and shiny), truncate at base, grooved on obtuse, lower ridge, acute on other ridge and angles, typically concave and somewhat wrinkled on faces, oily when poked. Early November–early June.

Native. Perennial herb occurring commonly in range on open patches in shrublands, and having a long flowering season. *Euphorbia polycarpa* has showy cyathia, the showiest of our local species, and has been misidentified as *E. albomarginata*, which is also a perennial that does not form adventitious roots. Pubescent forms of *E. polycarpa* formerly were recognized as variety *hirtella*, and this form can be found in range, e.g., at Point Dume.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson