

*Euphorbia serpyllifolia* Pers. var. *hirtula* (S. Watson) L. C. Wheeler, HAIRY THYME-LEAVED SPURGE. Annual, taprooted, several–many-stemmed at base, mat-forming, forking unequally at each node and commonly developing a subsequent, intervening, axillary branch, the lateral branch typically diverging from main axis at 45–90° and thinner than main axis, prostrate, not rooting at nodes, < 3 cm tall; monoecious; shoots 2-dimensional (plagiotropic), pubescent throughout, the hairs whitish, straight to ± kinky or twisted; latex white, copious. **Stems:** cylindric, < 2 mm diameter, flexible, green soon turning pinkish brown or deep red on exposed surfaces, not zigzagged, internodes typically 20–40 mm long (2–10 mm long on late-summer and fall growth), nodes swollen to 2.5 mm. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, short-petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2 (4 per node), pairs slightly fused across node or separate at base, attached to node, narrowly acuminate, 0.7–1.7 mm long, whitish becoming pink to rose (if exposed), fringe-lobed or minutely fringed, sometimes deeply 2-forked or divided to base; petiole 0.6–1.5 mm long, curved to orient leaves horizontally, pubescent; blade ovate to oblong or obovate, 3–14 × 1.2–6 mm, oblique to 1-lobed (semicordate) at base, minutely serrate on margins (sometimes teeth only above midpoint), obtuse or rounded at tip with weak point (not notched), 3–5-veined at base and pinnately veined above midpoint, gray-green to dark green or aging reddish but lacking a dark reddish central area, upper surface sparsely hairy to glabrous, lower surface pubescent. **Inflorescence:** cyathium (= involucre with staminate flowers and 1 pistillate flower), axillary, produced in leafy, cymelike arrays, pubescent; peduncle 0.7–1.3(–2) mm long; cyathium < 2 mm wide (including spreading glands and appendages); **involucre** bell-shaped, ± 1 × 0.6–0.8 mm, green, white to light pinkish on margins and below glands, glabrous, internally hairy below glands, with 5 bracts and 4 glands, the bracts of involucre fused most of length, fringed, acute to acuminate at free tips, tips ca. 0.4 mm long, whitish ciliate-fringed margins, the glands alternate with bracts (1 absent), nectar-producing, raised, transversely elliptic, 0.25–0.5 × 0.1–0.15 mm, fleshy, yellowish green to yellowish orange or reddish pink to light pinkish yellow, depressed in center, appendaged below gland, the appendage petal-like, 0.3–0.7 × 0.05–0.5 mm, whitish to pale pinkish, scalloped to lobed (entire) on outer margin; staminate flowers 5–18 in 5 clusters of 1–4, on pedicel-like stalk, each cluster associated with a bractlet; bractlet linear to lanceolate, 0.5–1 mm long, white, fringed approaching tip, sometimes deeply 2-forked, the pedicel at anthesis cylindric aging flattened, 0.6–0.8 mm long; pistillate flower on a pedicel-like stalk (gynophore), at anthesis gynophore short and erect, with only styles barely exposed, soon after gynophore elongating with maturing ovary exerted, slightly expanded and weakly 3-lobed beneath pistil. **Staminate flower:** reduced to 1 stamen; filaments < 0.2 mm long, colored like anther; anther conspicuously dithecal, each sac broadly ellipsoid, ± 0.2 mm long, yellowish green becoming dark reddish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow. **Pistillate flower:** reduced to 1 pistil; ovary superior, 3-lobed broadly ovoid, 0.5–0.7 mm long, light green sometimes with pink to reddish edges, pubescent, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 3, 0.25–0.4 mm long, 2-branched at midpoint, light green to pinkish and grooved below fork, the branches club-shaped, fleshy, and ± colorless to transparent pink at tip; stigmas along upper edge to tip. **Fruit:** capsule, 3-seeded, 3-lobed and broadly triangular-ovoid, 1.3–1.8 × 1.6–1.8 mm, pubescent, elastically dehiscent along septa and chambers into 6 dry valves (some valve-pairs remaining attached at base) and expelling seeds. **Seed:** quadrangular-ovoid or quadrangular-oblong, 0.9–1.1(–1.3) × 0.5–

0.8 mm, orangey brown beneath frosty-white, smooth or very finely netlike epidermis, sometimes slightly dimpled, transversely wrinkled on faces, grooved on obtuse, inner ridge, acute on other angles. Mid-May–late October.

Naturalized. Annual to date collected in two small waste patches in Thousand Oaks (SH) and on the western boundary of SMM. *Euphorbia serpyllifolia* var. *hirtula* is also recognized as *E. serpyllifolia* subsp. *hirtula* (S. Watson) Koutnik, as well as either a variety or subspecies within the genus *Chamaesyce*. This is the hairy form of a widespread, weedy, nonshowy species that apparently had not been collected until recently in range.

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