

Galenia pubescens (Ecklon & Zeyher) Druce, COASTAL GALENIA. Perennial herb, semi-woody, fibrous-rooted, many-stemmed at base, mat-forming, much-branched, prostrate, in range < 20(–35) cm tall; shoots with ± fleshy cauline leaves, gray-green with scattered, appressed, T-shaped (2-armed) hairs oriented along axis, stems and leaves papillate with water-storing epidermal cells (vesicles); adventitious roots forming on horizontal stems buried in loose soil. **Stems:** cylindric, to 1.5 mm diameter, very tough and fibrous. **Leaves:** helically alternate (rarely opposite decussate on rigorous, long shoots), simple, subsessile, without stipules; petiole scarcely distinguishable from blade, < 1 mm long; blade spatulate-obovate to obovate, 5–33 × 2–18 mm, grading into smaller bractlets, folded, broadly tapered at base, entire, rounded to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, lower surface with conspicuous, hemispheric epidermal vesicles. **Inflorescence:** leafy cyme with axillary flowers (alternatively treated as having solitary axillary flowers), flowering lateral shoots ± regularly branched with short internodes, bracteate, hairs and papillate surfaces like on shoot; bractlets 1–2 subtending flower, leaflike, blade typically < 3 mm long, if 2 bractlets unequal and appearing opposite; pedicels absent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 4 mm across; hypanthium ± 0.3 mm long, dark green; **sepals** 5, with overlapping bases, spreading from rim of hypanthium, subequal, ± oblong to oblanceolate or lanceolate, 2.5–4 × 0.8–1.1 mm, fleshy, either pink to rose and often strong purplish red below midpoint or white turning pink when dried with green on backside midvein, approaching the tip on outer surface with a hairy, hard, green callus (conspicuous on outer sepals), with 2–3 parallel veins, lower surface with appressed T-shaped hairs and papillate cells; **petals** absent; petaloid staminodes absent; **stamens** 10, = 5 pairs between sepals, pairs fused at base; filaments flattened, 1.1–1.8 mm long, of pairs unequal to equal, whitish; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.6–0.8 mm long, light yellow turning deep pink when dried, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, 2 mm long, short-papillate; ovary superior, inversely conic and angular, 0.7–0.9 mm long, green, truncate, 4–5(–6)-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule attached at top of central axis; styles 4–5(–6), linear, spreading, green, conspicuously papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent at tip of angles, several-seeded, inversely conic-angled with depressed center, 2.5–3 × 1.5–2 mm, with persistent flower parts and bractlets; mature seeds bulging and often showing through chamber wall. **Seed:** D-shaped, 1–1.2 × 0.7–0.8 mm, glossy black, ridged parallel to raphe and minutely warty (tuberculate). Mid-March–mid-June.

Naturalized. Mat-forming perennial herb, potentially weedy, known to date from one locality, where it was first documented in 2004 from a fire road on Trippet Ranch but since spreading along that road. *Galenia pubescens* is interesting because at that site, water-stressed plants in full sun tend to have white flowers (aging pink) whereas those particularly in shade or with larger leaves have pink flowers. Most descriptions treat the flowers as solitary, i.e., forming in the axil of a leaf, but, in reality, most of the canopy is a cyme, and the “leaves” therefore are bractlets, each subtending a sessile flower.

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