

*Galium cliftonsmithii* (Demp.) Demp. & Stebbins, SANTA BARBARA BEDSTRAW. Perennial herb, with woody lower stems, somewhat climbing, 30–60 cm tall; shoots somewhat scabrous with hooked teeth along stem ridges and leaf margins, surfaces otherwise glabrous. **Stems:** 4-sided (square in  $\times$ -section) and conspicuously 4-ridged (herbaceous stems), to 2 mm diameter, with ridges descending from leaf midribs, tough, green becoming reddish tinged, internodes (3–)10–35 mm long, ridges with stiff, backward-pointing (retorse) prickle-hairs to 0.3 mm long; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** whorled, 4 per node, simple and sessile and fused across node, with stipules; stipules 2, indistinct from leaves (treated here as leaves); blade ovate to elliptic, 7–16  $\times$  2.5–6 mm, entire with retrorse prickle-hairs, acuminate with stiff, translucent point at tip (pungent), 1-veined with midrib raised on lower surface but lacking retrorse prickle-hairs, surfaces  $\pm$  glossy and glabrous. **Inflorescences:** cymes, functionally unisexual, terminal mostly on short lateral shoots, each cyme several-flowered, bracteate; axes stemlike but more slender; bracts 4, 2, or 0 per node, decreasing in number toward the tip, leaflike; bractlet subtending pedicel absent; pedicel  $\pm$  2 mm long, lacking teeth or backward-pointing prickle-hairs. **Staminate flower:** radial, ca. 2.5 mm across, 4-sided in bud; **perianth (corolla)** 4-lobed, of 1 whorl, cymbal-shaped (rotate); tube 0.1–0.4 mm long, greenish; lobes spreading, acuminate-ovate to narrowly ovate, ca. 1.6 mm long, greenish to pale yellow and greenish at base; **stamens** 4, fused to base of corolla alternate with lobes; filaments short; anthers dithecal,  $\pm$  0.2 mm long, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **nectary disc**  $\pm$  flush with top of corolla tube; **pistil** 1, vestigial. **Pistillate flower:** radial, ca. 2 mm across; **perianth (corolla)** 4-lobed, of 1 whorl, cymbal-shaped (rotate); tube 0.1–0.4 mm long, greenish; lobes spreading, acuminate-ovate to narrowly ovate, ca. 1.6 mm long, greenish to pale yellow and greenish at base; **stamens** vestigial; **nectary disc**  $\pm$  flush with top of corolla tube; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, 2-lobed, green, lobes ellipsoid-oblong, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style 2-branched, to 0.8 mm long below fork, the branches spreading, narrowly club-shaped, ca. 0.6 mm long. **Fruit:** schizocarp, 2-chambered forming 2 fleshy, 1-seeded berrylike segments (mericarps) with fleshy fruit wall  $\pm$  fused to seed coat; mericarp  $\pm$  obovoid but flat on the inner face, glabrous.

Native. Plant vouchered from Sepulveda Canyon and Las Flores Canyon by early collectors, not encountered recently but assumed still present in range, and considered a rare plant by California Native Plant Society. *Galium cliftonsmithii*, formerly treated as a form of *G. nuttallii*, is also scabrous but with broader, more glossy leaves and does not climb like *G. nuttallii*. The leaf tip is also more pointed (pungent), although that feature is somewhat exaggerated by authors because other members of that species group have a translucent point.

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