

*Gilia capitata* Sims subsp. *abrotanifolia* (E. Greene) V. E. Grant, GLOBE GILIA, BLUEHEAD GILIA. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, several-stemmed at base, branched in canopy, erect to ascending, 20–80 cm tall; shoots with highly dissected basal leaves and cauline leaves. **Stems:** cylindric, to 3.5 mm diameter, green becoming reddish on large stems, with sparse, very fine white hairs becoming glabrescent. **Leaves:** helically alternate, 1-2-pinnately divided with many lobes and linear segments, petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile to subsessile (cauline leaves), without stipules although cauline leaves often possessing paired lobes next to stem resembling stipules; petiole channeled, to 30 mm long; blades of basal leaves 2-pinnately divided, to 100 mm long, lobes and ultimate segments  $\pm$  linear, to 20 mm long and rarely  $> 2$  mm wide, with small, hard point at tip, pinnately veined, having scattered hairs or hairs mostly on lower surface along principal veins; blade of cauline leaves 1-pinnately divided, decreasing upward with fewer and shorter linear lobes. **Inflorescence:** headlike cyme, terminal, spheroid, commonly 20+ mm across, with 14–30+ flowers, lacking bracts and bractlets; axes with occasional fine, shaggy hairs; pedicel 1–2 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 10 mm across and long; **calyx** 5-lobed, 5–6 mm long, lobed above midpoint, hairy becoming glabrescent; tube green and reddish brown ribs continuous with lobes with membranous panel, membranous panels sometimes bluish; lobes acute to acuminate, ca. 2 mm long, curving to slightly recurved, membranous on margins, dark-tipped; **corolla** 5(–6)-lobed, white to light blue or light or pale violet-blue with faint, fine bluish veins on inner surfaces of tube and lobes; tube + throat, in range 7–9 mm long, tube cylindric and straight at base, throat expanded from midpoint; lobes  $\pm$  spreading, oblong to ovate, 3–4  $\times$  2–3 mm, nearly rounded at tip, having a darker blue margin; **stamens** 5, fused at top of corolla throat alternate with corolla lobes just below sinuses; filaments white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, exerted, oval, light blue, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light blue; **nectary disc** surrounding ovary at base; **pistil** 1, becoming fully elongated only after anthers dehisce (= 13–15 mm long); ovary superior, conic and  $\pm$  3-angled, ca. 1.5 mm long, 3-chambered, each chamber with several ovules attached to center; style long-exserted above anthers,  $\pm$  10 mm long, white to pale blue, 3-branched, the stigmatic branches short. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 detaching valves, 9–18-seeded, ovoid to spheroid, 2.5–4.7 mm long,  $\leq$  calyx. **Seed:**  $\pm$  ovoid, 1–1.3 mm long, dull brown,  $\pm$  wrinkled. Early March–late May (June–July second flowering).

Native. Annual growing throughout the range in open sites especially in chaparral and on the margins of southern oak woodland, e.g., along roadside, scattered on loose banks, and on recent burns where can occur robust individuals. *Gilia capitata* subsp. *abrotanifolia* is apply named because this is the local gilia in which the floras are in dense, ball-like (spheroidal), headlike cymes, often with more than twenty flowers, and therefore easily distinguished from the other species. Because globe gilia is showy, it is included in commercial wildflower seed packets, and therefore one can expect local variability to include forms from outside the range.

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