

Hedypnois cretica (L.) Dum. Cours., CRETE WEED. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, 6–30(–40) cm tall; shoots with prostrate to ascending basal leaves and clasping cauline leaves, hirsute-hispid becoming \pm scabrous, the hairs mostly 2(3)-barbed at tip; latex milky. **Stems:** cylindrical at base to many-ridged above, to 3 mm diameter, with ridges descending from cauline leaves, coarsely hairy with barb-tipped hairs along ridges. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile and clasping (cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole flat and narrowly winged, < 10 mm long and indistinct from blade, white, often inrolled and sparsely short-ciliate on margins; blade oblanceolate to spatulate or narrowly oblong, 35–180 \times 8–30 mm, long-tapered at base, dentate with shallow teeth or shallowly pinnately lobed on margins, acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, dull green, with scattered hairs, the hairs unbranched and barb-tipped. **Inflorescence:** heads, initially solitary and terminal later in cymelike array of several heads, head ligulate, 12–15 mm across, of 37–45 flowers, bracteate, scabrous with mostly barbed hairs; bract subtending peduncle = cauline leaf; peduncle many-ridged, ascending to erect, 7–100 mm long, becoming thicker and hollow approaching head, coarsely hirsute-hispid with barb-tipped hairs along ridges, somewhat compressed in fruit; sometimes with bracts along axis, bracts leaflike, narrowly lanceolate to narrowly oblong, entire or short-dentate; bracts at top of peduncle subtending head generally 7–10 (calyculus), appressed, unequal, narrowly lanceolate, 2–5.5 mm long; **involucre** narrowly bell-shaped, ca. 5 mm wide, phyllaries \pm 13 phyllaries in 2 series, equal, linear, \pm 8 mm long, base fleshy, bluntly keeled with narrowly winged margins enveloping ovary of the outermost flowers and incurved and hardened in fruit, hispid; receptacle flat, without bractlets (paleae), shallowly pitted with a crownlike border surrounding each ovary. **Ligulate flower:** bisexual, bilateral, ca. 2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 5 fused scales (outer flowers) to 10 free scales in 2 series (central flowers), scales if 5 erect to ascending, 0.3–1 mm long, scarious, many-toothed, of central flowers inner series with 1–5 flat-based bristles to 5 mm long; **corolla** shallowly 5-toothed; tube cylindrical, 2.5–4 mm long, white, with spreading, stiff, straight hairs at top and on the lower limb; limb spreading, wedge-shaped, 5.5–6 \times 1.3–2.3 mm, bright yellow with purple teeth, 6-veined (to sinuses + edges); **stamens** 5, fused to top of corolla tube; filaments ca. 1 mm long, whitish; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, exerted, basifixed, dithecal, ca. 2.5 mm long, bright yellow, tails 0.6 mm long, appendages at tip triangular, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen bright yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, cylindrical, 3–4 mm long, greenish white, 10-ribbed, the ribs rigid short-strigose, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted beyond anthers, ca. 6 mm long, yellowish at base to bright yellow above midpoint, barbed, 2-branched, the branches spreading and later recurved. **Fruits:** cypsela, dimorphic, without beak; fruit bodies of 28–35 outer fruits curved, \pm cylindrical, 5.5–6 mm long, 0.6–1 mm diameter at base slightly tapering to tip, of 9–10 central fruits straight-cylindrical, 5–5.5 \times 0.4 mm and \pm uniform diameter base to tip, dark brown to blackish, ribbed, with triangular, semitransparent, scabrous scales along ribs, central fruits ca. 15-ribbed; pappus of outer fruits crownlike of fused scales with many teeth, tannish to light brown, if 10 scales of outer series triangular or lanceolate to oblong, 0.5–1 mm long, fringed, inner scales ascending, lanceolate-needlelike, 3.8–5.5 mm long, tannish to whitish; the outermost fruits with appressed, hardened phyllary firmly attached at base.

Late January–mid-June.

Naturalized. Annual occurring along trails and in waste areas at scattered locations, but often forming a dense local population, with overlapping basal rosettes of the plants.

Hedypnois cretica is conspicuously scabrous with hairs that catch in clothes via a pair of barbs at the tip. Pappus is different on the central nine or ten flowers, in that each has an inner series that resemble awns. This species is distinctive also in fruit, and both the intact head and individual fruits serve as dispersal units. Each head has persistent phyllaries, and most of the fruits remain firmly attached to the receptacle, while each curved phyllary encloses a curved cypsela. In inner sets, the blackish fruits have a short crown of fused pappus scales, and the central fruits, which typically abscise first, have both outer scales and longer, ascending, awnlike inner scales.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson