

Hordeum intercedens Nevski, BOBTAIL BARLEY. Annual, fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base, bent (geniculate) at the lowest nodes, erect to ascending, 5–40 cm tall; shoots with several cauline leaves, glabrous to pubescent, scabrous. **Stems (culms):** cylindric, to 1.1 mm diameter, light green to pale yellowish green, internodes 15–50 mm long, glabrous (hairy). **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath closed only at base, 18–60 mm long (the longest = flag leaf), generally > internode, green with raised, pale green veins, with membranous margins overlapping most of length, densely pubescent with ± erect to slightly downward-pointing fine hairs, with a short, appressed lobe (auricle) at top continuous with ligule; ligule membranous, truncate, 0.3–0.6 mm long, entire of splitting, semi-transparent and whitish, glabrous; collar structurally obscure but tinged purplish red; blade linear-triangular to linear, 15–45(–90) × 1–2.5(–4) mm (the shortest = flag leaf), flat but inrolled when dried, entire, parallel-veined, pubescent and with scattered, erect hairs to 0.5 mm long, but hairs sparser on upper surface. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal, dense “spike,” spike cylindric, in range in outline 25–45(–60) × 4–7 mm (including awns), at anthesis partially enclosed by sheath of flag leaf, spikelets in alternate distichous clusters of 3, nodes 13–26(–35), central spikelet sessile and bisexual, lateral spikelets sterile (staminate) and with stalk 0.8–1 mm long, spikelet with 1 floret, appressed, bracteate, awned; peduncle 50–105 mm long, elongating as inflorescence matures; rachis segments 1.5–1.9 × 0.8–1 mm, the widest at top, flattened with inner face flat to slightly concave and outer face convex, glabrous on faces, ascending pubescent on acute to winged edges, at maturity fragmenting at each node bearing a set of 3 spikelets. **Central spikelet:** **glumes** 2, on lemma side of spikelet, awned, linear-lanceolate, 15–16 × 0.5–0.8 mm (including awn), green with paler midvein and margins, scabrous-pubescent on faces and margins, the awn straight, 6–8 mm long; rachilla extension prolonged 1.8–2.5 mm behind palea; **lemma** awned, lanceolate-ovate, 12–15.5 × 1.3–1.7 mm (including awn), light yellowish green, rounded on back, faintly 5-veined, entire with margins incurved and embracing palea, acuminate beneath awn, mostly scabrous-pubescent becoming glabrous below awn, the awn 5–8 mm long; **palea** lanceolate to ovate and 2-toothed, 6–6.5 × 1.2–1.4 mm, 2-veined, pale green with green veins narrowly separated, ± 2-keeled at least at tip. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, ± mitten-shaped, 0.9–1 mm long, translucent, at anthesis fleshy at base, weakly lobed on outer margin below midpoint, short-ciliate at tip and on lateral lobe; **stamens** 3, free; filaments threadlike, whitish; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, oblong, 0.8–1 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1, to 2 mm long; ovary superior, with a fleshy, 2-lobed, pilose terminal appendage, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, distinct to base, whitish, feathery (plumose) with kinky stigmatic hairs. **Lateral spikelet:** sterile or staminate; **glumes** 2, staggered, narrowly lanceolate, lower glume 14.7–15.8 × 0.7–0.8 mm, slightly expanded and flattened in basal 1/3, upper glume 13.5–13.8 × 0.3–0.4 mm, narrower than lower glume; rachilla 0.7–1 mm long, curved inward toward central floret at base and curved outward above midpoint, not prolonged behind palea; **lemma** lanceolate, 2.8–3.8 mm long, light green, rounded on back, incurved with overlapping margins, minutely scabrous; **palea** absent. **Flower:** neuter (rarely staminate). **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), dispersed as a unit with lemma and palea, ovoid or ellipsoid to oblong compressed front-to-back, 2.7–3.3 × 0.3–1.2 mm, round at base, with pilose appendage at truncate tip, convex on lemma

side, with longitudinal groove on side facing palea and with palea firmly embedded in groove.

Native. Rare annual only known from clayey soil on northeast slopes of Conejo Mountain (SMM). *Hordeum intercedens* is more common on the Channel Islands, where it grows on coastal bluffs, in moist depressions, and on stabilized sand dunes; this barley should therefore be looked for in these habitats within range. *Hordeum intercedens* is extremely similar to *H. depressum*. In *H. depressum*, glumes of the central spikelet are ≤ 0.5 mm wide, whereas in *H. intercedens* they are 0.5–0.8 mm wide, so good optics are required to identify these two species correctly.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson