

Lasthenia californica Lindl. subsp. *californica*, CALIFORNIA GOLDFIELDS. Annual, taprooted, 1-stemmed at base, sparingly or opposite-branched along main axis, erect to ascending with terminal, yellow heads (often nodding in bud), 6–35 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, strigose to short-strigose with appressed, upward-pointed white hairs and somewhat sparsely short-villous, lacking glandular hairs, unscented. **Stems:** cylindrical, < 1.5 mm diameter, wiry, reddish or purple to orangey brown. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile and with pair fused across node to form a complete sheath around stem, without stipules; blade linear, 10–50(–70) × 0.7–1.7 mm, sometimes more expanded at base, semi-circular to flattish in \times -section, entire, acute to rounded sometimes with a small glandular point at tip, midrib only visible and slightly raised on lower surface, sparsely strigose to short-strigose with hairs often along margins. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal, open, cymelike array with 1 or 2 heads arising at the base of a peduncle, head radiate, 5–25+ mm across, with 5–13 ray flowers and 9–120 disc flowers, bracteate; bracts subtending peduncle 2(1), if 2 then opposite, leaflike, 8–25 mm long; peduncle erect in flower (often hooked in bud), stemlike, 15–60+ mm long, slightly greenish and densely white-strigose below involucre; **involucre** narrowly bell-shaped to hemispheric, 4–10 mm wide, phyllaries in 1 series opposite each ray flower, lanceolate to elliptic or oblanceolate, 2.5–5(–10) × 1–2 mm, acute and ascending to spreading or recurved at tip, becoming keeled at or below midpoint, mostly green but becoming reddish at tip and along keel, pubescent to short-villous; receptacle long-conic, without bractlets (paleae), with nipplelike protrusions having ovaries attached at tips. **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, 1.5–3 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 0–2(–7) awns, awns 1–1.5 mm long, white; **corolla** 2–3-toothed or lacking teeth; tube cylindrical, 0.5–1 × 0.25 mm, pale greenish yellow, with glandular hairs; limb elliptic to oblong, 4.5–7.5(–9) × 2.2–2.7 mm, bright yellow, rounded at tip or teeth small and rounded (if 3 teeth, then the central tooth often short), with 5 faint veins; the corollas turning dark red in alkali solution; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly top-shaped and slightly curved, 2–2.3 mm long, whitish, with thick, round-tipped, ascending whitish short hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style 1–1.5 mm long, yellow becoming orange-yellow, 2-branched, the stigmatic branches scarcely exerted, spreading aging recurved. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, 1–1.5 mm across, in bud conspicuously yellow and long-papillate at tip; **calyx (pappus)** of 0–9 scales, each scale with broad base and fine tip, 1.5–2 mm long, whitish; **corolla** 5-lobed, funnel-shaped, 2.3–3 mm long; tube cylindrical, 1–1.7 × 0.25 mm, pale greenish yellow, with short glandular hairs; throat 0.7–1.3 mm long, expanded above tube to \pm 0.6 mm wide, golden yellow, at anthesis filled with nectar; lobes spreading to ascending, deltate, \pm 0.5 mm, golden yellow; **stamens** 5, fused to base of corolla tube, slightly exerted; filaments 0.5 mm long, yellowish; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, 1 mm long, bright yellow, with \pm lanceolate to deltate terminal appendage (0.2 mm long), longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly top-shaped and straight or slightly curved, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style \pm 2 mm long, exerted above anthers, \pm 0.5 mm long, yellow, **nectary** swelling at base and producing nectary, style 2-branched, the branches spreading, grooved on inner face, slightly expanded at tip, the tip semi-deltoid or hemi-conic, densely papillate, with papillae longer at base of the tip. **Fruits:** cypsela, \pm monomorphic, ca. 2.5 mm long, of ray flowers club-shaped compressed front-to-back, of disc flowers straight-cylindric or slightly curved, brownish black, finely 10-ribbed, with

ascending short hairs (glabrous); pappus often absent or of 1–9 translucent to opaque, whitish, fine-tipped scales or awns, ± 1.5 mm long, the scales minutely cut on base and upward-pointed projections on fine tips. Late December–mid-May.

Native. Showy annual generally flourishing in open habitats on shallow soil, frequently very abundant and at each site always varying greatly in plant stature and head diameter. *Lasthenia californica* is the local species of goldfields having undivided leaves and foliage lacking scent. Larger heads have proportionately wider involucre and more ray and disc flowers.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson