

Madia elegans D. Don, COMMON MADIA. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, often with ascending lateral branches > original axis, lower branches appearing erect but often decumbent at base, 15–215 cm tall; shoots leafy and sometimes appearing crowded with tufted, unexpanded axillary shoots, rosette leaves absent during flowering, pilose to bristly hirsute with stiff bases decreasing upward and glandular-hairy increasing upward, the glandular heads amber aging dark red, strongly aromatic. **Stems:** ridged (lower stem) and ± cylindric (upper stem), to 10 mm diameter, with ridge descending from each leaf, straight; hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade linear-lanceolate to narrow-lanceolate or linear-elliptic, 40–200 × 3–17 mm, ± clasping at base, entire to obscurely toothed on margins, when water-stressed somewhat inrolled, acute to long-acuminate at tip, often 3-veined with midrib only conspicuous, upper surface often somewhat resinous. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal, open, cymelike arrays, lateral branches with 1–several heads on spreading to ascending peduncles, head radiate, 17–47 mm across, with 4–18(–21) ray flowers and 8–70+ disc flowers, bracteate, hirsute with scattered, spreading hairs and densely glandular-hairy; bract subtending peduncle leaflike, not clasping, linear, < 30 × 2 mm decreasing upward; peduncle slender, to 60 mm long, flexible; bracts along peduncle 1–5, linear, < 12 × 1 mm; **involucre** bell-shaped to hemispheric, 3–7.5 mm wide, phyllaries 5–20 (= ray flowers) in 1(2) series, outer series 5–13, ± equal, body pocketlike with flanged sides enclosing and nearly fully concealing ovary of ray flower + flat tip, phyllary abscising as a unit with enclosed fruit, 6–9 mm long, tip ≥ body, ± keeled along broad midvein, the side flaps 1.5 mm wide with colorless margins having long hairs, the tip acuminate, internally 1-veined and soft short-strigose; inner series (if present) shorter, villous but not glandular-hairy; receptacle conic, conspicuously straight-puberulent with numerous hairs between ovary bases, with bractlets (paleae) forming a pleated curtain between layer of ray and disc flowers, each palea oblanceolate in outline, 3.3–5 mm long strongly fused to 3 mm (= the widest level of palea), translucent with green acuminate tips and green principal veins, ciliate on free margins, parallel-veined, both surfaces sparsely puberulent, persistent in fruit. **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, 5–7 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** 3(–4)-lobed; tube cylindric, 0.8 mm long, whitish, pubescent with ascending hairs; limb overlapping at base, fan-shaped and deeply lobed, (4–)7–19 × 5–7 mm, the lobes unequal with the central lobe the narrowest, oblong, 3.5–5 mm long, bright yellow sometime spotted maroon at base, rounded at tip, with 3 pale yellow veins on lower surface; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, oblanceoloid compressed side-to-side and D-shaped, at anthesis 2.5–2.8 mm long, white, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exserted, 2.7–3 mm long, bright yellow, 2-branched, the branches ascending, ca. 2.2 mm long, not conspicuously papillate. **Disc flower:** functionally staminate, radial, 1.5–2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** 5-lobed, narrowly funnel-shaped, ± 3.5 mm long; tube cylindric, ca. 0.7 mm long, whitish; throat funnel-shaped and somewhat pleated, pale yellow at constricted lower portion and yellow on flaring upper portion, lower throat + tube 5-veined and with scattered ascending hairs; lobes broadly lanceolate with blunt tip, bright yellow (in range without purple at base), upper surface strongly papillate and lobes somewhat held together by intertwined projections, lower surface with ascending hairs conspicuous above buds; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla at top of tube; filaments 1 mm long; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, partially exserted, basifixed, dithecal, 1.5 mm long, deep reddish purple

to blackish, with yellow, ovate appendages at tip, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1, sterile; inferior ovary, \pm cylindric slightly tapered to base, 1.5–1.8 mm long, white, glabrous, 1-chambered but lacking ovule; style barely exerted, 3.5 mm long, 2-branched, the branches appressed and erect, 1.5 mm long, bright yellow aging reddish, papillate-hairy. **Fruits:** cypselae of only ray flowers, each contained within pouchlike body of phyllary but easily dislodged, without pappus; cypselae ear-shaped compressed side-to-side, $3\text{--}3.4 \times 1.1\text{--}1.5 \times 0.4$ mm, mottled black and brown, attachment off-center at base with outer edge wrapping under, inner edge \pm straight, outer edge curved and rounded, \pm truncate at top, glabrous. Mid-May–mid-September.

Native. Perennial herb growing in open grassy or disturbed areas in southern oak woodland and chaparral, often in rocky soils and sometimes occurring in dense local populations. *Madia elegans* in range formerly was designated as subsp. *densifolia*, which is no longer recognized because distinctions are not sharp enough to distinguish from forms that lacked basal rosettes and not as leafy while in flower. This species is easily identified as having very showy heads with deeply three-lobed ray flowers. Typically all ray flowers of a head produce viable fruits, and populations return year after year at the same sites. *Madia elegans* produces its attractive yellow heads during summer drought.
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