

Matricaria discoidea DC., PINEAPPLEWEED, RAYLESS CHAMOMILE. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1–many-stemmed at base, ascending to decumbent, 4–40 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, feathery-leaved, sparsely short-villous becoming glabrescent, with colorless, minute, sessile glands on leaves, strongly scented like pineapple (*Ananas*) when handled. **Stems:** angled aging nearly cylindrical (large specimens), to 3 mm diameter, with 1 ridge descending from each leaf, green, very tough; solid, pith green. **Leaves:** helically alternate, finely 1–3-pinnately lobed and somewhat 3-dimensional, sessile, without stipules; blade narrowly oblong in outline, 18–80 × 8–15 mm, rachis flattened top-to-bottom, the widest at base and white, tapered and green at tips; primary lobes alternate to subopposite, often undivided near base of leaf, 1–2× divided above, ultimate segments elliptic to lanceolate, 1–3.5(–6) × 0.2–0.6 mm, with colorless (becoming brownish) point at tip of each segment, venation mostly obscure on both surfaces except midrib raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** heads solitary and terminal or in cymelike arrays of 2–3 heads, head discoid, conic to hemispheric, 5–11 mm diameter, with 125–500+ disc flowers, bracteate; bract subtending peduncle leaflike; peduncle strongly ridged, 1–11 mm long, sparsely short-villous to glabrate, with sessile glands in furrows; **involucre** broadly cup-shaped, as wide as head, phyllaries 25–40+ in 3 series, appressed, ovate to lanceolate or oblong, (2–)2.5–4 mm long, green, membranous aging scarious on margins, with membranous tips, rounded to irregularly jagged and sometimes divergently lobed; receptacle narrowly conic, to 8 mm tall, without bractlets (paleae), with white pith and often hollow. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, 0.4–0.6 mm across, 2.4–3 mm long; **calyx (pappus)** inconspicuous, reduced to a narrow rim; **corolla** 4-lobed or sometimes 1-lobed with 2 teeth, translucent yellowish green, persistent; tube somewhat inflated to urn-shaped, 1–1.5 mm long; lobes ascending, deltate, ± 0.2 mm; **stamens** 4, included; filaments fused to corolla tube, free portion < anther length; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, ca. 0.3 mm long, brilliant yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale to brilliant yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, asymmetric sausage-shaped to narrowly inversely conic, 1.2–1.6 mm long, whitish to pale green, glabrous, ca. 4-ribbed with ribs asymmetrically arranged, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, 2-branched, the branches spreading, < 0.2 mm long, greenish becoming red. **Fruits:** cypselae, ± club-shaped but asymmetric, 1.5–1.6 × 0.6 mm, pinkish brown, oblique at tip, 4–5-ribbed on 1 side, the other side rounded with many fine ribs; pappus = slender rim around tip. Late January–early June.

Naturalized. Aromatic annual weed, originally from northwestern North America, now common throughout the range growing in poor or hard-packed soil along roadsides and trails as well as on vacant lots and in highly disturbed open ground. *Matricaria discoidea* has also been called *Chamomilla suaveolens*, and belongs to the same genus as chamomile (*M. chamomilla*), the source of the popular herb tea. Local populations typically display a wide range of plant heights and head sizes. Its finely lobed leaves smell like pineapple (*Ananas*). The conic to hemispheric head of *M. discoidea* produces hundreds of small disc flowers tightly arranged in a picturesque Fibonacci helix. The corolla is transparent yellowish green but appears brilliant yellow prior to anther dehiscence, due to stamen color.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson