

Meconella denticulata Greene, SMALL-FLOWERED MECONELLA. Annual, diminutive, slender-taprooted, sometimes rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, erect (decumbent), in range 25–100 mm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, glabrous, glaucous; latex colorless. **Stems:** cylindric, 0.5 mm diameter, green. **Leaves:** whorled and opposite (helically alternate), simple, petiolate and fused across node (cauline leaves), in range 7–21 mm long, without stipules; petiole winged (cauline leaves) or lacking wings (basal leaves), 4–11 mm long; blade of basal leaves ovate to rhombic, 1.5–6.5 × 2.5–3.5 mm, broadly tapered at base, entire, acute at tip, venation faint with midrib and 1 or 2 lateral veins visible on lower surface; blade of cauline leaves elliptic to rhombic, 4–13 × 2–3.5 mm, with funnel-shaped base of fused leaves in pairs or whorls, broadly tapered or more narrowly tapered at base, entire or remotely short-dentate on margins, acute at tip. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, terminal or axillary, glabrous; bractlet subtending pedicel leaflike; pedicel (peduncle) straight, 19–23(–50) mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 3.5–4.5 mm across; receptacle not expanded into ring beneath calyx; **sepals** 3, oblong to obovate, 1.5 mm long, weakly hooded at tip, green with some red at tip and approaching margins, early-deciduous even before anthesis; **petals** 6 in 2 whorls, narrowly elliptic to obovate, 1.7–3(–6) × 0.9–1.5(–2) mm, outer petals slightly > inner petals, white, abscised soon after pollination (caducous); **stamens** 3–6 in 1 whorl, free, equal, 1.5 mm long; filaments tapered to slightly lanceolate, ca. 0.3 mm wide at base, light green, flattened on inner face; anthers basifixed, dithecal, linear, 0.6–0.7 mm long, whitish with a light green connective, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, fusiform, ± 2 × 1 mm, light green, 1-chambered with ca. 35 ovules attached along 3 placentae on outer wall; style absent; stigmas 3-lobed, lobes narrowly triangular but fleshy, ca. 1 mm long, whitish or turning pink, finely papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent at tip by 3 valves, many-seeded, linear, in range 7–20 × 1 mm, twisted ca. 360°. **Seed:** ovoid, 0.5 × 0.3, glossy black; aril absent. Early February–early April.

Native. A delicate annual growing with other winter-active herbs on moist, shady slopes at scattered locations of tall chaparral and southern oak woodland throughout the SMM. *Meconella denticulata* is uncommon and, moreover, is rarely observed because this miniature poppy grows in very sparse populations with similar but more robust plants, e.g., *Stellaria media* as well as *Claytonia perfoliata*, and therefore it can be easily overlooked.
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