

Micranthes californica (Greene) Small, CALIFORNIA SAXIFRAGE. Perennial herb, clonal, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, rosetted, acaulous from a caudex, inflorescence erect, 15–35 cm tall; shoots with only basal leaves, glandular-pilose, the hairs with red heads, lower plant aging villous; rhizomes ± horizontal, 2 mm diameter, initially white, fleshy and easily broken, with whitish, sheathing, triangular scales 3.5–7 mm long, internodes 15–20 mm long; caudex short-vertical, covered with fine adventitious roots and fibrous leaf bases. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole U-shaped in \times -section, 25–70 mm long, sheathing and whitish at base, villous to sparsely ciliate on margins, upper side sparsely hairy to glabrous; blade ovate to broadly elliptic (round), 15–70 \times 10–40 mm, tapered at base, short-dentate and pilose-ciliate on margins with each tooth terminating in a hard, dark red point, obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly sunken on upper surface and somewhat raised on lower surface, upper surface moderately to sparsely pilose, lower surface sparsely pilose. **Inflorescence:** panicle of cymes, each cyme 1–several-flowered and clustered near tip of inflorescence, with long peduncle, bracteate; axes conspicuously glandular-pilose, the hairs with red heads; peduncle 0.5–0.8 \times length of inflorescence, cylindric, to 2.5 mm basal diameter, dark rose-red, not viscid; bract subtending cyme and each branchlet oblong to lanceolate or oblanceolate, the lowest 4–11 \times 2–3 mm, decreasing upward, glandular-ciliate on margins and sometimes with ascending teeth, often with 3 parallel veins, lower surface glandular-hairy or glabrous; bractlet subtending pedicel resembling bract but only 2 mm long; pedicel slender, 1–3 mm long, often rose-tinged. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 6–8 mm across; hypanthium fused to lower 3/4 of ovary, cup-shaped, 2–2.5 mm diameter, glabrous; **sepals** 5(–6), spreading, triangular-ovate, 1–2 mm long, green or blushed red, glabrous and sometimes with a small patch of glandular hairs, becoming reflexed in developing fruit; **petals** 5(–7), forming a dishlike corolla, obovate to oval, 2.5–4.5 \times 2–3.4 mm, white (purplish on margins); **stamens** 10(–12), free, ascending from hypanthium rim, opposite sepals and petals; filaments 1.5–2 mm long, whitish, flared at base, flattened top-to-bottom; anthers basifixed, strongly dithecal and often 4-lobed, squarish, 0.5–1 mm long, dark reddish orange with connective red, longitudinally dehiscent to the sides; pollen yellow-orange; **nectary disc** with scalloped margin and forming ± the flat top of each ovary, yellowish green; **pistils** 2, hemi-inferior, nearly free to base on the touching, flat faces, each chamber with many ovules; styles 1 per ovary, stout, 1 mm long, green, bases of 2 styles touching; stigmas ca. 0.5 \times 0.4 mm, greenish, shallowly lobed. **Fruit:** capsule, with 2 folliclelike halves projecting above hypanthium, dehiscent along inner midline of each half, many-seeded, 3–5 mm long including spreading beaks (styles) appearing superior, **Seed:** not observed in range. Late February–early April.

Native. Perennial herb scattered throughout the range on rocky slopes in shallow soil growing with other native perennial herbs, such as *Dodecatheon clevelandii* and *Plagiobothrys nothofulvus*. *Micranthes californica* is more commonly treated as *Saxifraga californica*. This plant becomes dormant as soon as the soil dries during springtime, and its rosettes may not appear at all in very dry years.

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