

Muilla maritima (Torrey) S. Watson, COMMON MULLA. Perennial herb, geophytic, corm-bearing, acaulous, 1–several-stemmed at base, scapose, erect, in range 10–30 cm tall; shoots with several basal leaves, glabrous; corm ovoid to ellipsoid, $\pm 15 \times 10$ mm, with cylindrical tube of sheathing leaves to 35 mm long. **Stems (peduncles):** cylindrical, ± 1 mm diameter, green or tinged reddish and red-purple at ground level. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple with sheath; blade hemi-cylindric with shallow channel, long-linear, $10\text{--}90 \times < 1$ mm, with tips progressively turning brown and being shed as leaf grows at the base, sparsely and inconspicuously short-serrate on margins. **Inflorescence:** umbel-like, in range 8–18-flowered, with 1–several flowers opening each day, buds formed at ground level before peduncle elongates; peduncle cylindrical, in range 50–250 mm long, ± 1 mm diameter, green and photosynthetic, smooth and not papillate, bractlet subtending each pedicel; involucre of outer bractlets initially fused as a compressed-ovate pouch 4 mm long, whitish aging membranous; bractlet of inner pedicels shorter, persistent; pedicel ascending to erect, at anthesis and in fruit 10–30(–50) mm, glaucous, wiry in fruit with bases enlarged creating spheric inflorescence. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, in range 8–11 mm across; receptacle inversely conic, having copious nectar at base of ovary; **tepals** 6 in 2 whorls, fused only at base, cymbal-shaped (rotate); tepals spreading, \pm equal, ovate, $3.5\text{--}4 \times 2\text{--}2.5$ mm, of outer whorl slighter narrower and somewhat rolled under, white with light green midvein, somewhat papillate at tip, lower surface swollen at tip, persistent and erect in developing fruit; **stamens** 6, fused to bases of tepals for ca. 0.5 mm; filaments erect or ascending, compressed-tapered, in range 1.5–2.3 mm long, whitish; anthers dorsifixed-versatile, dithecal, $\pm 1.3 \times 1$ mm, greenish blue to purplish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, 3 mm long; ovary superior, \pm domelike, 3-lobed, green, 3-chambered, each chamber with 3–4 ovules attached to center; style 3-angled, sometimes with purplish lines along edges; stigma at level of anthers or above, of 3 shallow crests, papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, to 12-seeded, subspheric with rounded lobes, $2\text{--}4 \times 2.5\text{--}5$ mm, light brown. **Seed:** obovoid with irregular edges, ca. 1.6×1 mm, charcoal black. Late February–late April.

Native. Geophytic perennial bulb in range to date found only in very shallow soil over volcanics on upper Mountclef Ridge, Wildwood Regional Park, Thousand Oaks (SH). Since the first local discovery of *Muilla maritima* in 2003, this hard-to-spot geophyte has been observed there at three local sites, but can be expected elsewhere, most likely growing with *Linanthus dianthiflorus*. Our plants appear to be stunted in comparison with plants from outside our range, a situation that may be due to their occurrence on extremely thin, nonfertile soils. Most years, even with some winter rains, this species remains dormant, so that an observer would not realize that the plant is present in that habitat.
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