

Nemophila menziesii Hooker & Arnott var. *menziesii*, BABY BLUE-EYES. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, decumbent to ascending, 10–25 cm tall; shoots with similar basal leaves and cauline leaves, strigose and hirsute, not glandular-pubescent. **Stems:** cylindric, to 3 mm diameter, pale green, somewhat fleshy, with internodes to 120 mm long, sparsely strigose with upward-pointing hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate (basal leaves) and opposite decussate (cauline leaves), deeply (5–)9–13 pinnately lobed with lobes opposite to alternate, petiolate and when opposite pair connected by 2 ledges across node, without stipules; petiole hemi-cylindric, 10–50 mm long, winged base to top or sometimes narrowly winged only at base, short-strigose on sides with longer hairs scattered on margins; blade \pm oblong in outline, 25–75 \times 10–25 mm, dull, long-tapered at base grading into winged petiole, basal and terminal lobes entire, lateral lobes asymmetric often with 2 sublobes and mitten-shaped or with 3–5 teeth, principal lobes to 10 mm long and wide and with rounded sinuses, teeth acute with a hard point, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, hirsute and with 1 vein to each tooth. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, axillary or opposite leaf, with 1 flower + 1 or 2 shoots per node, not 1-sided, buds and open flowers never coiled at tip, flower on long pedicel, hirsute; bract subtending pedicel = cauline leaf; bractlets absent; pedicel cylindric, at anthesis erect, slender, in range 17–100 mm long becoming hooked beneath fruit, often purplish, short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, in range 15–30 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed (appearing 10-lobed) having 5 reflexed appendages from sinuses, at anthesis to 6.7 mm long increasing in fruit, green, short-strigose; tube 0.6–1.5 mm long; appendages lanceolate, 1–2.5 mm long, acute with hard point at tip, sometimes lobed on 1 or both margins at base, midvein slightly raised on lower surface, short-strigose; lobes equal, narrowly triangular-lanceolate, 4–5.2 mm long, pinnately veined with midvein raised on lower calyx surface, with long hairs on margins, short-strigose and internally with fine hairs above midpoint; **corolla** 5-lobed, rotate, with 2 appendages bracketing each filament; tube 1.8–3.3 mm long, white to pale blue with faint blue veins, conspicuous white stiff-hairy between appendages; appendages fused longitudinally to corolla tube, narrowly ear-shaped, 0.7–2.3 mm long, fleshy, pale lavender to whitish with stiff white hairs on margin; lobes spreading, overlapping, broadly obovate to roundish, 6.3–10.5 \times 6.2–11 mm, white to pale blue at base becoming immediate to dark blue to purplish blue on upper surface and much paler or white on lower surface, surfaces glabrous but ciliate on margins above midpoint; **stamens** fused to base of corolla tube for 0.2–0.3 mm, exerted; filaments ascending, 4.5–6 mm long, fleshy, colorless or white, glabrous; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 1.9–3.1 \times 0.7–1 mm, brown, narrowly arrow-shaped at base, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen creamy white; **nectary disc** beneath ovary, ringlike and 5-lobed or 5-angled, not wider than ovary, dark green to dark maroon or black, short-hairy on margin; **pistil** 1, 4.3–5.2 mm long; ovary superior, subspheroid, green, densely hirsute with ascending stiff hairs, 1-chambered with many ovules; style shorter than stamens, erect, 2.7–3.7 mm long, 2-branched at midpoint and short-pilose from base to fork, the branches appressed later ascending, 1.3–1.5 mm long; stigmas terminal, narrower than branch diameter, deep purple, short-papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 2 valves, 10–20-seeded, slightly compressed-obovoid, ca. 6.5 \times 3.3 mm, valves \pm strigose with ascending hairs except \pm pilose approaching tip. Early March–early June.

Native. Annual seldom encountered in range, but known in grassy patches, especially in the eastern SMM, perhaps attributable to where the herb is used in seed packs and mixtures of showy native annuals. *Nemophila menziesii* has opposite and alternate leaves, a five-lobed calyx with a conspicuous appendage at each sinus, and showy blue flowers with a white center, lacking dots or nectar lines. Because seeds from outside the range are used for revegetation and erosion control, variability of flowers should be expected, and nobody can be absolutely certain whether a collection represents the original native populations, or whether another variety occurs within range.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson