

Nemophila pedunculata Benth., MEADOW NEMOPHILA. Annual, taprooted, briefly rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, typically with 2 spreading shoot systems, decumbent, 2–8 cm tall; shoots strigose and short-hirsute, not glandular-pubescent. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 1.5 mm diameter, green, sparsely strigose with downward-pointing hairs. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, deeply 5–7(–9) pinnately lobed, petiolate with pair connected by 2 ledges across node, without stipules; petiole hemi-cylindric, to 15 mm long, strigose on sides with longer hairs scattered on margins; blade oblong to ovate, 6–15 × 4–10 mm, petiole ≤ blade, dull, long-tapered at base grading into petiole, lateral lobes opposite or not, the lobes entire or with 1 small sublobe, sinuses rounded, obtuse to rounded but with a short, herbaceous point at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, hirsute but strigose along veins. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, axillary, with 1 flower and 1 shoot per node, not 1–sided, buds and open flowers never coiled at tip, strigose; bract subtending inflorescence = cauline leaf; bractlets absent; pedicel cylindric, at anthesis erect and in range 2.5–3 mm long becoming strongly recurved and increasing 2–3× in fruit (presenting basal fruits at ground level), sparsely strigose above midpoint, aging with a tough vascular supply and often purple. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 2 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed (appearing 10-lobed) with spreading to slightly reflexed appendages from 5 sinuses, at anthesis to 2 mm long increasing 2× in fruit, green, short-strigose; tube cup-shaped, 0.5–0.6 mm long, the base somewhat colorless; appendages lanceolate, 0.2–0.4 mm long, with hairs; lobes unequal, narrowly triangular, 1–1.4 mm long, minutely pinnately veined, strigose and hirsute, internally with hairs above midpoint; **corolla** 5-lobed, bell-shaped, whitish with tiny purple dots or lines on upper tube, lobed from midpoint; tube ± 1.2 mm long, finely longitudinally ridged between filaments but lacking appendages, internally with ascending hairs; lobes ascending aging recurved, oblong, 0.8–1 mm long, glabrous or with several short hairs at lobe tips; **stamens** fused to corolla tube below midpoint, included; filaments 0.7–0.9 mm long, colorless, tapered to tip, glabrous; anthers ± versatile, dithecal, 0.3 mm long, purplish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen creamy white; **nectary disc** beneath ovary, ringlike and inconspicuously 5-lobed, not wider than ovary base, green; **pistil** 1, 1 mm long; ovary superior, subspheroid, green, densely hirsute with ascending stiff hairs, 1-chambered with several ovules; style included, erect, 0.3 mm long, 2-branched at midpoint, the branches erect; stigmas terminal, minute. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 2 valves, to 8-seeded, spheric, ± 3.5 mm, purple before releasing seeds, short-hirsute. **Seed:** potato-like with depressions having food bodies for ants, ± 1 mm long, greenish. Late February–mid-April.

Native. Annual seldom encountered in range, being known from grassy patches of Malibu Creek State Park and above Semler Reservoir south of Westlake Village, but expected elsewhere on moist north-facing slopes with other low-growing natives. *Nemophila pedunculata* has opposite leaves, a five-lobed calyx with a tiny appendage at each sinus, and small white flowers with purple dots or lines on the inside of the corolla tube. The fruit turns purple and is positioned next to the ground on a recurved pedicel.

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