

Phacelia cicutaria (Greene) var. *hispida* J. T. Howell. CATERPILLAR PHACELIA. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, typically branched at each caudine node, ascending to erect, 20–95 cm tall; shoots hispid and glandular-pubescent, the hispid hairs mostly 1.5–2.5(–4) mm long with bulbous bases, the stalked glandular hairs with amber heads. **Stems:** cylindric or with a pair of ridges descending from each caudine leaf (robust shoot), to 15 mm diameter, not straight, green aging dark purplish red at base or also on vigorous growth; solid. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1(–2)-pinnately compound with 2–5 deeply lobed lateral leaflets per edge and an irregularly dissected and deeply lobed terminal leaflet, lateral leaflets opposite to subopposite (alternate), sometimes with a sessile, diminutive basal leaflet, petiolate, without stipules; petiole channeled with a narrow groove, 15–100 mm long (scaling with blade size), green but often reddish; rachis channeled like petiole, 12–80 mm long; blade oblong to ovate in outline, 20–200 × 15–105 mm; petiolules < 2 mm on lower leaflets to sessile above; lateral leaflets oblong or obovate to narrowly ovate or broadly elliptic in outline, 8–60 × 3–27 mm, dull, with 2–5 lobes per side, toothed on margins, pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and conspicuously raised on lower surface; between leaflet pairs along rachis often with small leafletlike lobes oblong to narrowly ovate, < 10 mm long; terminal leaflet 3-lobed or 5(7)-lobed, ± rhombic to ovate, 15–65 × 10–45 mm long, pinnately veined, toothed on margins. **Inflorescence:** branched cyme, terminal on main and each lateral shoot, cymes typically in clusters of 3–5, at anthesis on spreading branches, each branch many-flowered, 1-sided, buds and open flowers densely coiled at tip, flowers subsessile, hispid and sericeous, the hispid hairs with a purple ring around thick base; bract subtending inflorescence = upper caudine leaf, leaflike, narrowly lanceolate, < 25 mm long, sometimes alternate or opposite also on peduncle, rarely above the lowest flower; peduncle cylindric, typically < 70 mm long, appressed soft-hairs with scattered stiff hairs; axis initially forked, becoming erect, 2 branches in fruit diverging ca. 45°, branches with cymes initially ⊥, in fruit erect; bractlets absent; pedicel at anthesis < 0.5 mm long increasing to 1.5 mm in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 8–14 mm across, ± lavender; **calyx** 5-lobed, green (especially in bud) or with reddish purple midsections or tips, hispid and glandular-pubescent; tube shallowly cup-shaped, 0.5–0.7 × 1.3–1.5 mm, white-puberulent; lobes subequal with 1 wider, linear, 4–6.3 × 0.5–0.6 mm and 1 lobe oblanceolate-linear and 0.8–1 mm wide, all increasing nearly 2× and linear in fruit, acute at tip (rounded), surface bumpy from hair bases, internally with finer, shorter, straight hairs and fewer glandular hairs; **corolla** 5-lobed, broadly funnel-shaped, ± pale lavender with darker veins and spots; tube 3–4.5 mm long, the lower portion barrel-shaped, light yellow to white, with 5 rose-purple patches opposite each filament base, the upper portion (throat) white to light yellow with numerous small, lavender spots; lobes spreading with lateral margins overlapping, circular to flattened ovate, 2–3.5 × 3.7–5.5 mm long, purplish pink to lavender with darker dendritic veins, lower surface of lobes either pubescent or glabrous on a single corolla; internally scales paired on each side of filament base having an edge fused to corolla for ± 1.7 mm and the other edge fused to filament ± 0.7 mm, translucent with ovate lobes having rose-purple margins, upper free margin of each appendage descending from corolla and curving to the pistil side of filament forming a collar; **stamens** 5, fused to base of corolla tube, exserted, with the pair of scales forming a collared neck around base of each filament; filaments straight, unequal, 6.5–11 mm long, light lavender at base to top of

scales and whitish above, glabrous; anthers versatile, conspicuously dithecal, 1–1.5 mm long, deep violet, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light violet; **nectary disc** beneath ovary, ledgelike, 1 mm diameter, dark green; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ± spheroid to flattened ovoid, 0.6–1.2 × 0.8–1.5 mm, green, densely hirsute with erect, above midpoint with stiff hairs having bulbous bases, 2-chambered, each chamber with 2 ovules; style exserted, ascending to arching, 8–12 mm long, 2-branched just below midpoint, the branches spreading, 5–6 mm long, whitish but violet just below stigma, tapered to tip, hirsute and with stalked glandular hairs below midpoint; stigmas terminal, minute. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 2 valves, (2–)4-seeded, depressed-spheroid, 2.4–3 mm, whitish with purple rings when immature aging dull brown, shallowly 2-lobed with 2 low ridges bearing stiff hairs with bulbous bases and many shorter nonglandular and glandular hairs; inflorescence erect after flowering, fruit-bearing axis to 110 mm long. **Seed:** 1/4 sphere (= 2 flat faces and outer face convex), 1.5–1.8 × 1.1–1.4 mm, brown, having netlike ridges defining deep pits, with short, stout points at angles of ridges (especially on outer face), hilum obscure and slightly lateral on inner (ventral) ridge at or slightly above midpoint. Mid-January–early July.

Native. Annual easily recognized in scrubland occurring throughout the range. As its name applies, *Phacelia cicutaria* var. *hispida* is armed with long, stiff hairs (= hispid), which make this plant somewhat uncomfortable to handle, especially in late spring when the leaves dry and erect stalks of fruits are coated with projecting hairs. The name caterpillar phacelia refers to the coiled young inflorescence with stiff hairs, reminiscent of caterpillars also protected by radiating hairs.

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