

*Plagiobothrys collinus* (Philbr.) I. M. Johnst. var. *gracilis* (I. M. Johnst.) L. C. Higgins, SAN DIEGO POPCORNFLOWER. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, with erect to spreading inflorescences from base, to 50 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and leaflike bractlets (cauline leaves), hirsute throughout, the hairs ascending to spreading and tapered, 0.7–1 mm long; taproot not purplish. **Leaves:** helically alternate and congested on short internodes at base, simple, sessile (not clasping), without petioles; blade linear to linear-lanceolate or linear-ob lanceolate, 3–30 × 0.5–1.6 mm, the widest at base, entire, acute at tip, ascending-hirsute (both surfaces). **Inflorescence:** spikelike to racemelike cyme, axillary and terminal (1-flowered), to 500 mm long, bracteate, hirsute; bractlet ± opposite and slightly lower on rachis than flower (pedicel) but absent for other flowers, leaflike, narrowly lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 3–8.5 × 0.5–1.5 mm increasing to 20 mm in fruit; pedicel < 0.5 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial 2.3–3 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, barely fused at base; tube extending above receptacle < 0.2 mm; lobes erect, loosely appressed to corolla tube, narrowly lanceolate, 1.4–1.8 × 0.4–0.5 mm, ascending-hirsute on outer surface, internally glabrous; **corolla** 5-lobed, trumpet-shaped, 1.7–2.5 mm long; tube cylindrical, 1–1.2 × 0.6 mm, white at base grading upward to light green and yellow below throat; throat 0.5 mm long, flaring to 1 mm diameter at top, yellowish at base grading to white at top, with intruding appendages at junction of tube and throat, the appendages opposite petal lobes, = transverse padlike indentations shallowly 2-lobed, yellow, papillate; lobes widely obovate to round, 0.8–1.1 × 0.8–1 mm, white; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube at ca. midpoint, alternate with corolla lobes, included; filaments ca. 1 mm long, compressed side-to-side; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, oblong, 0.4 × 0.15–0.2 mm, yellow to orange-yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; **pollen** yellow; **pistil** 1, on a broadly conic to dome-shaped ovary base-receptacle, ca. 0.7 mm diameter; ovary superior, deeply 4-lobed, green, each lobe spheroid, 0.25 mm diameter (at anthesis), 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style attached to ovary base and arising in center between ovary lobes, at anthesis ca. 1 mm long, light yellowish, slightly flattened; stigma capitate, 4-lobed. **Fruits:** nutlets, 3–4, vertical and weakly attached as maturing, ± ovoid but slightly constricted side-to side at tip, 1.1–1.5 × 0.9–1.1 mm, brownish when mature; outer (dorsal) face convex with low, rounded ribs and 1–4 transverse ribs with warty papillae (tubercles) along ridges, the medial rib prominent, keeled from beak to base (sometimes absent at very base) and continuous across top to edge (ventral side), the lateral ribs 1–2 on each side, less prominent, with the outermost ones and transverse ribs forming a netlike pattern on basal half of back and sides with medial rib, tubercles between ribs and sometimes fused to form short, bumpy ridges, the inner (ventral) side prominently keeled, more elevated toward base, the scar where fruit attached with a rimmed, circular to vertically ovate vascular bundle scar just above the expanded lower portion of scar. Late January–late April.

Native. Annual on open ground beginning to flower in earliest spring in coastal sage scrub of SH, e.g., along Stagecoach Bluff Trail at Wildwood Regional Park. *Plagiobothrys collinus* var. *gracilis* has narrower, linear leaves and shorter nutlets than does the common form.

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