

Sanicula arguta J. M. Coult. & Rose, SHARP-TOOTHED SANICLE, SHARPTOOTH

BLACKSNAKEROOT. Biennial or short-lived perennial herb, geophytic, taprooted, ascending to decumbent, 10–50 cm tall; andromonoecious; shoots with ascending basal leaves and cauline leaves, glabrous, when crushed faintly aromatic like celery (*Apium*); taproot slender to turnip-shaped (old plants). **Stems:** cylindrical or low-ridged and \pm 8-sided (basal stem), < 5 mm diameter; solid. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply palmately 3-lobed or 5-lobed with lobes pinnately dissected, long-petiolate to short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole not sheathing, 60–170 mm long, basal portion with winged margins, crescent-shaped in \times -section; blade heart-shaped to triangular or pentagonal in outline, 30–95 mm long and wide, width \pm = length, central lobe to 2 \times lateral lobes, lobes lanceolate to rhombic in outline, ultimate lobes lanceolate to linear or narrowly triangular with teeth on margins, 1–3 mm wide, spinose on margins and at acute tip, pinnately veined, upper surface midrib and lateral veins with raised edge bearing peglike glands, lower surface with conspicuous network of minor veins. **Inflorescence:** compound umbel, terminal on main and lateral branches (appearing axillary), in leafy cymelike arrays, each compound umbel of (1–)2–6 headlike umbellets, central umbellet primary ray \gg surrounding umbellets (sometimes \pm sessile), umbellet spheroid, 9–12 mm across, with either many staminate flowers or 1–10 bisexual flowers and 10–25 staminate flowers, bracteate, glabrous; bract subtending umbel leaflike with short petiole; primary ray of central umbellet 20–100+ mm long, strongly ribbed, bearing glandlike bodies; **involucre** absent; involucre of to 13 bractlets subtending pedicels, weakly fused at base, lanceolate to elliptic and sometimes 3-lobed, 1.5–3 mm long, sometimes pedicels of interior flowers also subtended by linear-lanceolate bractlets; pedicel 2–4 mm long, glabrous. **Staminate flower:** radial, 2–3 mm across; **sepals** ovate-deltate, 0.5–0.7 mm, green, persistent; **petals** 5, 1–1.5 mm long including acuminate tip strongly looped inward, light yellow, with midridge on upper (inner) surface; **stamens** 5(10), free filaments in bud hooked later ascending to spreading, 2.5–3.5 mm long, light yellow; anthers versatile, dithecal, 0.8–1 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** vestigial, with 2-lobed platform on top (stylopodium, stelar tissue) forming circle with depression containing nectar, < 0.2 \times \pm 0.4 mm. **Bisexual flower:** bilateral, styles ascending and exerted before anthesis; **sepals** ovate-deltate, 0.5–0.7 mm, green, persistent; **petals** 5, 1–1.5 mm long including acuminate tip strongly looped inward, light yellow, with midridge on upper (inner) surface; **stamens** 5(10), free filaments in bud hooked later ascending to spreading, 2.5–3.5 mm long, light yellow; anthers versatile, dithecal, 0.8–1 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen transparent or whitish to pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, at anthesis < calyx, slightly compressed side-to-side, with 2-lobed platform on top (stylopodium, stelar tissue) on top forming circle with depression containing nectar, < 0.2 \times \pm 0.7 mm bearing ascending, inward-hooked, transparent prickles, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 2, at anthesis becoming strongly recurved, 2.2–2.6 mm long, green to light yellow; stigma terminal. **Fruit:** schizocarp, of 2 dry, 1-seeded halves (mericarps), mericarps hemi-ellipsoid, 2–5 mm long, short-stalked, with stout, radiating, hooked prickles on outer surface, the prickles 0.5–1 mm long; staminate flowers on pedicels often persisting in cluster among fruits. Mid-February–mid-April.

Native. Short-lived perennial herb occurring in open grassy patches near chaparral and coastal sage scrub, at isolated localities throughout the range. *Sanicula arguta* has coarsely dissected leaves that smell like celery, and it is a relatively short herb with headlike umbellets of bright yellow flowers, often not projecting much above the leaves. Flowers of this species in range have been observed with ten stamens.

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