

Solidago confinis A. Gray, SOUTHERN GOLDENROD. Perennial herb, with woody caudex, fibrous-rooted, rosetted, typically 1(–several)-stemmed at base, unbranched, ascending to erect, in range to 150 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, especially above midplant with tufts of immature leaves on unexpanded axillary shoots, basal leaves present at first flowering but soon withering leaving persistent leaf bases, glabrous, with inconspicuous glandular hairs, mildly scented. **Stems:** cylindric, to 9 mm diameter, woody, pithy and brittle, often purple on shaded side, veins obvious but surface smooth. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, appearing sessile and somewhat sheathing, without stipules; petiole winged, indistinct from blade; blade narrowly elliptic, in range 45–205 × 5–43 mm, the largest at base and decreasing gradually upward, long-tapered at base, entire (serrate) on margins, acuminate at tip, midrib composed of midvein + 2–4 decurrent lateral veins diverging from midrib from near midblade and at base, midrib raised on lower surface, inconspicuously minutely glandular-hairy mostly along veins, the hairs colorless. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal, paniclelike arrays with upper portion ± leafless and lateral clusters of heads clublike and racemelike terminating short lateral branchlets axillary to cauline leaves, in range array often 1-sided, 15–100 mm long, head radiate, 5–7 mm across, with 5–16 ray flowers and 7–27 disc flowers, bracteate; bract subtending peduncle linear to narrowly lanceolate, < 10 mm long; peduncle 2–4.5 mm long, glabrous, with 0–5 bracts along axis, the bracts awl-shaped, < 3 mm long, peduncle and bracts with some minute glandular hairs above midpoint; **involucre** ± cylindric, 4.5–5.5 × 3–4 mm, phyllaries ca. 25 in 3–4 series, awl-shaped (linear) to lanceolate, 1–4 × 0.7–1 mm, light green, 1-veined or faintly 3-veined, sharply acute at tip and sometimes inrolled above midpoint, glabrous except short-ciliate on margins, outer phyllaries sometimes with scattered glandular hairs; receptacle without bractlets (paleae), pitted, with stout teeth surrounding ovary of each disc flower and occasionally having several short hairs. **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, < 1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** with ca. 23 bristles in 1 series, 2.5–3 mm long, white; **corolla** minutely 2-toothed or 3-toothed; tube 1.5–2.5 mm long, pale greenish yellow; limb strap-shaped, 1.5–3 mm long, light yellow, becoming reflexed at base and longitudinally aging inrolled but not prone to coiling; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, inversely conic, ± 0.8 mm long, with whitish, appressed, ascending hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, 3–4 mm long, **nectary** at base, style 2-branched, whitish to greenish below fork, the branches linear, ca. 0.7 mm long, dark yellow to orange, acute at tip, stigmatic and minutely papillate above midpoint. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 23 capillary bristles fused at base in 1 series, bristles 2.8–3.2 mm long, white; **corolla** 5-lobed; tube + throat 2–2.3 mm long, whitish at base to pale greenish yellow above, throat 5-ribbed to sinuses; lobes ascending, acute, 1.3–1.5 mm long, light yellow; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube; filaments < 1 mm long; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, slightly exerted, basifixed, dithecal, ± 1.5 mm long, bright yellow, cordate at base, with pale yellow acuminate appendage at tip, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, inversely conic, ± 0.8 mm long, with whitish, appressed, ascending hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style 3.7–4 mm long, **nectary** surrounding style at base, ringlike and inconspicuous, green, style 2-branched, whitish at base to yellow at and above fork, the branches exerted, linear, ± 0.7 mm long, acute at tip, densely papillate-hairy on outer side for entire length, glabrous and flat on inner side. **Fruits:** cypselae, monomorphic, inversely narrowly conic, ± 1.7 mm

long, brown, 5–7-ribbed, in range densely short-strigose with hairs in lines along ribs; pappus bristles ascending, \pm 3 mm long (sometimes with 1–several short, fine bristles), whitish, fused at base so bristles abscising in groups. Early September–early November.

Native. Perennial herb first collected in range in 2005 by Tarja Sagar on a rocky slope above the creek below Century Lake Dam, Malibu Creek State Park. *Senecio confinis* has also been discovered on a small area of calcareous seeps on small ledges on west-facing, nearly vertical outcropping; on those wet ledges also occur *Lythrum californicum*, *Lobelia dunnii*, *Muhlenbergia rigens*, *M. asperifolia*, and *Adiantum capillus-veneris*. *Solidago confinis* resembles *S. spectabilis* but has shorter pappus bristles and narrower phyllaries. *Solidago confinis* is also described as having fewer ray flowers, but there is considerable overlap of this character for the two species.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson