

Veronica peregrina L. subsp. *xalapensis* (Kunth) Penn., PURSLANE SPEEDWELL, NECKLACE WEED. Annual, taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, often unbranched below inflorescence, erect, in range 5–15 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves on 3–5 nodes and leaflike bractlets at flowering nodes, glandular-hairy, the hairs stalked, to 0.4 mm long. **Stems:** cylindric, < 1 mm diameter, green, internodes typically 15–20 mm long, glandular-hairy. **Leaves:** opposite decussate (cauline leaves) and helically alternate leaflike bractlets, simple, petiolate to sessile with pair connected by low ledges across node, without stipules; petiole flattish, to 5 mm long at the lowest node, mostly absent approaching inflorescence; blade oblanceolate-linear to oblanceolate or elliptic, 3–16 × 0.8–5.5 mm, dull, gradually tapered to rounded at base, low short-serrate on margins or subentire with minute teeth, rounded at tip, midrib only conspicuous and raised slightly on lower surface, glabrous, lower surface sometimes with glandular hairs at base. **Inflorescence:** leafy raceme (panicle of several racemes), terminal, bracteate, glandular-hairy; bractlet subtending pedicel leaflike, oblong-elliptic to oblong-oblanceolate, 5–6 × 1.5–2 mm increasing slightly in fruit, entire, rounded at tip, midrib inconspicuous, with glandular hairs below midblade; pedicel < 0.5 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 2.5 mm across; **calyx** 4-lobed, ± 2 mm long increasing 2× in fruit, glandular-hairy; tube cup-shaped, 0.5 mm long; lobes equal, oblong-oblanceolate, rounded at tip, veins obscure; **corolla** ± 2-lipped, 4-lobed, in range to 1.9 mm long, pale pinkish white without nectar lines; tube ca. 0.3 mm long; lobes spreading, equal, obovate, 1 mm wide, rounded at tip; **stamens** 2, fused to base of corolla tube; filaments ± 0.4 mm long, colorless; anther basifixed, dithecal, narrowly heart-shaped, 0.6 mm long, whitish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen colorless; **pistil** 1, 1 mm long; ovary superior, compressed-ellipsoid and inconspicuously 2-lobed, green, lobes unequal, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules; style 0.1 mm long, whitish; stigma capitate, whitish, conspicuously papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded, with 2 divergent, spreading lobes, compressed broadly heart-shaped, 3–4 mm wide, keeled, the notch < 0.5 mm deep, straw-colored to brown, with several glandular hairs especially near keel, not veiny on valves, style persistent in notch; persistent calyx appearing as 2 deeply lobed lips appressed to the opposite, bulging sides of fruit. **Seed:** obovate, 0.7–0.9 × 0.5 mm, dull light caramel, flattened top-to-bottom with 1 face flat and the outer face ridged, rounded at tip, minutely sculptured. Late February–late April.

Naturalized. Slender annual first collected in March 2008 by Tarja Sagar in a wet meadow and subsequently found elsewhere in temporary wet depressions, e.g., next to the reservoir at Las Virgenes Reservoir (Westlake Village). This species has delicate glandular hairs on the stem and green parts of the inflorescence. *Veronica peregrina* subsp. *xalapensis* is naturalized in moist places and blends in well with native herbs. Its flowers are essentially white and therefore distinctive from other species of speedwells, but it has the typical characters of only two stamens and a flat, many-seeded, heart-shaped capsule.
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