

Veronica serpyllifolia L. subsp. *serpyllifolia*, THYME-LEAF SPEEDWELL. Perennial herb, rhizomatous, fibrous rooting at nodes (internodes), several-stemmed at base, lower plant often mat-forming (prostrate and rooted), branches with terminal inflorescence ascending, in range to 10 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, 2-dimensional (plagiotropic) where creeping on soil, essentially glabrous on vegetative plant becoming arching-puberulent on flowering portion and with glandular hairs on flowers. **Stems:** cylindric, < 1 mm diameter, green or red-purple, on prostrate stems internodes 4–15 mm long, upper stems arching-puberulent. **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 narrowly winged, < 1 mm long, ± appressed to stem; blade broadly elliptic to broadly ovate, in range 5–14 × 3–9 mm, dull, rounded at base, entire or subentire to remotely crenate on margins, obtuse to rounded at tip, pinnately veined with midrib and sometimes 2 lateral veins near base raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** leafy raceme, terminal, bracteate, arching-puberulent; bractlet subtending pedicel leaflike, ± elliptic, 2.5–3 mm long increasing slightly in fruit, entire, rounded at tip, midvein visible, at least margins with arching hairs; pedicel at anthesis to 0.7 mm long increasing to 3 mm long in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, ca. 4 mm across; **calyx** 4-lobed, ± 2 mm long increasing to 3–4 mm long in fruit; tube cup-shaped, at anthesis ± 0.35 mm long, glandular-hairy; lobes unequal, outer 2 lobes slightly longer, elliptic-ovate, rounded (short lobes) to acute (longer lobes) at tip, with fine midvein; **corolla** 4-lobed, lacking lips, in range ± 2.4 mm long; tube cup-shaped, ca. 0.7 mm long, mostly green, internally sparsely papillate-hairy and with a papillate surface; lobes ca. 1.7 mm long, white at base changing to pale blue-violet at rounded tips, upper and lateral lobes broadly obovate, 1.8–2 mm wide with thick, deep violet, ± parallel nectar lines, the lines thicker on upper lobe, lower lobe oblong-obovate, ± 0.8 mm wide, white and lacking nectar lines; **stamens** 2, fused to base of corolla tube; filaments 1.5–1.8 mm long, green at base and pale blue-violet above; anther basifixed, dithecal, narrowly heart-shaped, 0.35–0.4 mm long, violet, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** 1, ca. 2 mm long; ovary superior, compressed-ovoid without obvious lobes, ± 0.7 mm long, green, compressed ⊥ septum, with glandular hairs above midpoint along edges, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules; style ca. 1.2 mm long, pale violet aging purplish approaching tip; stigma capitate, conspicuously papillate, slightly exerted from bud before anthesis. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal and septicidal, dehiscent by 2 valves, 40–50-seeded, compressed broadly heart-shaped, 2.5–3 × 3.5–4.2 mm wide, keeled, the notch only 0.2–0.4 mm deep, straw-colored to brown, with glandular hairs on exposed edge, not veiny on valves; style persistent in notch ca. 2 mm long; persistent calyx appearing as 2 deeply lobed lips appressed to the bulging sides of fruit. **Seed:** ± lens-shaped, 0.5–0.75 × 0.5–0.6 mm, dull light caramel with purple-red along edge, on 1 face with a central reddish dot surrounded by a raised reddish ring. Mid-April–early June.

Waif. Perennial herb known to date only at SMMNRA Paramount Ranch growing on the shady edge of a multi-purpose fescue “lawn” at the interface with southern oak woodland. *Veronica serpyllifolia* is known in California as a lawn weed, where it forms rooted mats that produce ascending racemes. Subspecies *serpyllifolia* has glabrous, nearly entire leaves and shorter pedicels than the more common, hairy form (subsp. *humifusa*). In our

subspecies the flowers of the raceme are alternate, the calyx is less than three millimeters in length, the persistent style on the fruit is about two millimeters long, and the fruit is wider than longer, shallowly notched, and slightly exposed above the short calyx. A similar lawn weed is *V. arvensis* L., which appears in housing communities throughout the Los Angeles area and may occur undetected in range; that species has a longer calyx, a very short style, and larger seeds.

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