Eschscholzia caespitosa Benth., COLLARLESS CALIFORNIA POPPY, FOOTHILL POPPY, TUFTED POPPY. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, several-many-stemmed at base, ascending to erect, 5–35 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, nearly glabrous, glaucous; latex colorless. **Stems:** low-ridged, to 2 mm diameter, with ridge descending from each leaf, green with rose to pinkish ridges aging straw-colored, with scattered, inconspicuous, papillate hairs; hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, 2–4× unequally 3-lobed or 3-divided with each subdivision wedge-shaped, long-petiolate, without stipules; petiole to 50 mm long; blade to 20 mm long, with lobes of each subdivision not arising from same point; ultimate segments oblong-linear to ovate, obtuse to acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins slightly raised on lower surface, lower surface short-strigose along principal veins. **Inflorescence:** cyme, terminal, 1–several-flowered, bracteate, glabrous, glaucous; bract subtending cyme leaflike, 1–2× 3-lobed, with shorter petiole than leaf, spatulate, < 15 mm long; pedicel erect, inconspicuously angled, 25–55 × to 1.3 mm, hollow. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 20–32 mm across, dish-shaped; buds erect; hypanthiumlike receptacle surrounding ovary base, deep cuplike to broadly funnel-shaped, 1.5–3 × 1.7–2.3 mm, light green, inconspicuously low-ribbed; **calyx** of 2 fused sepals forming a narrowly ovoid cap abscising as flower opens (calyptrate and caducous), inversely conic, in range 5–7.5 × 2.2–2.8 mm + elongate beak to 1.7 mm long, green, glaucous, rounded at tip; **petals** 4, obovate to rhombic or wedge-shaped, in range 9–16 × 6.5–12.5 mm, thin, bright yellow sometimes with orange at base, with many veins radiating from base, abscising readily from thin, inward-leaning receptacle leaving a narrow, persistent, papery collar (rim), the rim 0.3–0.7 mm wide forming after anthesis and shriveling beneath fruit; **stamens** 12–26 (several sometimes sterile), ± free but attached in groups to each petal base and falling with petals; filaments unequal, 1.6–3 mm long, yellow-orange, somewhat flattened front-to-back; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 2.1–4.7 mm long, orange-yellow, becoming twisted and coiled, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light orange-yellow; **pistil** 1, 9–10.5 mm long; ovary superior, narrowly fusiform, green + veins tinged rose, glaucous, 10-veined (beak 4-veined), 1-chambered with to 50 ovules attached to outer wall; style conic, 0.5–2 × 0.5–1 mm, persistent as short beak; stigmas 2–4, exserted above anthers, when 4 dimorphic in opposite pairs, ascending later spreading ⊥ beak, linear, 2.3–3 × 0.4 mm (long stigmas) and 0.5–0.7 × 0.25 mm (short stigmas), both increasing in fruit, greenish, papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent by 2 valves from base upward, > 15-seeded, linear, in range 40–60 mm long, the valves curved away, each strongly 5-ridged, brown with straw-colored ridges, glaucous, connected with persistent beak often having persistent stigmas. **Seed:** ellipsoid to obovoid, in range 1.1–1.5 mm long, in range dull brown to blackish, with a fine, inconspicuous, netlike set of low ridges; . Late March–early August.

Native. Annual occasionally found at scattered localities in open, full-sun sites. *Eschscholzia caespitosa* is so similar to the more common California poppy that flowering records are not reliable, but it seems to have a shorter flowering season. Flowers of *E. caespitosa* are in general smaller and always bright yellow, but like *E. californica* petals also have orange at the base, but never are the petals solid orange. One commonly used feature for species identification is the receptacle rim, which is relatively conspicuous in California poppy; *E. caespitosa* eventually forms a very narrow rim during fruit

development, so one must observe this feature on flowers, when the rim is absent in *E. caespitosa*. Capsules of *E. caespitosa* are overall shorter and more slender than on its relative, and the smaller seeds have a much finer and lower network of ridges.
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