

Amsinckia Lehm. FIDDLENECK

Amsinckia intermedia Fisch. & C. A. Meyer, COMMON FIDDLENECK, RANCHER'S FIREWEED. Annual, taprooted, initially rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, branching from the top node downward, erect, 5–100 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, hispid, the hairs with bulbous bases. **Stems:** cylindric, to 6 mm diameter, with 2 low ridges descending from each leaf, straight, light green, hairs often spreading. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade linear to narrowly lanceolate, 20–180 × 3–12 mm, dull green, entire, acute to acuminate and with a yellowish callus at tip, pinnately veined with midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, hispid. **Inflorescence:** racemelike cyme, terminal, each axis > 10-flowered, 1-sided, coiled downward at growing tip, in fruit to 450 mm long, flowers subsessile, initially close becoming widely spaced in fruit, lacking bracts, hispid; pedicel ca. 0.5 mm below inversely conic receptacle. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 3–6 mm across; bud with 5 deep dimples beneath sinuses on corolla throat; **sepals** 5, essentially free to base, at anthesis lobes subequal, linear to narrowly lanceolate, 4–6 × ± 1 mm increasing to 8 mm long in fruit and 1 or 2 often somewhat shorter, dark green, with conspicuous midrib, hispid + soft-ciliate on margins, sometimes long hairs somewhat rusty, dark green with inner surface glossy, internally soft-strigose above midpoint; **corolla** 5-lobed, narrowly funnel-shaped, 7–11 mm long, orange-yellow to yellow-orange, glabrous; tube cylindric, ca. 3 mm long, whitish where expanded base around ovary and yellowish above, 10-veined, with horizontal wrinkles; throat mostly or entirely exerted from calyx, internally with orange mark above each anther (opposite sinuses) or marks absent (mostly on small flowers), lacking appendages next to stamens; lobes rounded, in range 1–2(–2.5) mm long; **stamens** 5, fused at slightly different levels at top of corolla tube, included; filaments 0.3–0.8 mm long, orange-yellow; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 1 mm long, yellow to red-orange, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen orange-yellow; **nectary disc** on the inner edge of ovary, ringlike, thin, light green; **pistil** 1, extending to base of anthers; ovary superior, deeply 4-lobed, light green, warty; style arising from center between ovary lobes ca. midpoint of ovary lobes, ± 6 mm long, greenish, glabrous; stigma 2-lobed, ball-like, short-papillate. **Fruits:** nutlets, 4, erect, lanceolate-ovoid, in range 2–2.5 mm long, light tan, midridge (ventral keel) prominent, low, round-warty, transversely ridged; attachment scar tear-shaped, ca. 0.5 mm long. Mid-December–late May.

Native. Annual common throughout the range during early to late spring, occurring in openings in shrubland, grasslands, and on burns, even appearing in wast places as if it is a weed. *Amsinckia intermedia* perhaps should be recognized instead as a variety of *A. menziesii*, but that nomenclatural change, although frequently used by California botanists, apparently was not effectively published. Common fiddlehead forms a basal rosette that disappears when the shoot elongates. Its orange-yellow flowers nearly always have five orange spots in the throat, situated above the five anthers. In our populations corolla length tends to be comparatively short relative to populations outside the range.
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