

Apiastrum Nutt.

Apiastrum angustifolium Nutt., WILD CELERY. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, forking at every node (unequally forked below and \pm equally forked above), ascending to erect, 5–50 cm tall; shoots glabrous, when crushed aromatic like celery (*Apium*). **Stems:** cylindrical to 6–10-ridged, to 1 mm diameter, with 5 fine ridges descending from each leaf, green becoming red-purple, the ridges colorless and with minute teeth; hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate at lower nodes to opposite at upper nodes, 1-pinnate or 2–3 3-parted (ternate) at the lowest nodes (= large specimens) but mostly ternate-pinnately dissected, petiolate, without stipules; petiole ridged, 7–40 mm long, the base ca. $2/3$ sheathing node, winged at base, the wings membranous, 4–10 mm long, whitish; blade \pm round to oblate or ovate in outline, 9–60 mm long and wide, deeply lobed, green, ultimate segments linear to oblong, 0.6–2.5 mm wide. **Inflorescence:** compound umbel, mixed, the lower umbel 1–6-flowered + 2–4 umbellets, upper umbellets 4–6-flowered, lacking bracts, glabrous; **involucre** absent; primary rays ridged, unequal, the longest one 6.5–25(–35) mm long, the shortest one 1.5–11 mm long, green to striped or totally red-purple; involucre absent; pedicel present but often absent on 1 flower per umbel, ascending, unequal, 0–11(–15) mm long increasing in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 1–1.5 mm across; **sepals** absent; **petals** 5, spreading, roundish to ovate, \pm 0.5 mm long, white, sometimes with green midvein but lacking midridge on upper (inner) surface; **stamens** 5, free, erect, \pm 0.3 mm long; filaments colorless, \pm curved toward center; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ca. 0.1 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, distinctly 2-lobed with discoid platform (stylopodium, stilar tissue) on top, $\pm 0.7 \times \pm 0.8$ mm, green, cordate at base, ribbed, truncate at tip, with numerous, conic projections on surface, the 3 ribs on margins prominent, with pronounced conic projections, the 2 ribs on face less developed, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 2, spreading; stigmas minute, each often touching an anther. **Fruit:** schizocarp, of 2 dry 1-seeded halves (mericarps), before splitting heart-shaped, ca. $1 \times 2 \times 1$ mm, bumpy, with 5 tannish to brownish ribs + 4 dark reddish brown to dark purplish, intervening depressions but sometimes also forming ribs on upper mericarp, the ribs longitudinally crescent-shaped, wrinkled. Mid-January–early June.

Native. A late-winter to mid-spring annual relatively common in open or under shrubs in chaparral and coastal sage scrub but also encountered along grassy trails. *Apiastrum angustifolium* has finely dissected leaves that are glabrous, and tiny flowers with white petals lacking a midridge and the long-tapered tip found in most local Apiaceae.

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