

*Bowlesia* Ruiz Lopez & Pavón

*Bowlesia incana* Ruiz Lopez & Pavón, HOARY BOWLESIA. Annual, trailing, weak-stemmed, slender-taprooted, not rosetted, forming long  $\pm$  prostrate main shoots, often with 1 axillary branch per node, procumbent or decumbent with ascending flowering shoots, in range rarely  $> 25$  cm tall; shoots easily wilted, stellate-pubescent, lacking a detectable smell. **Stems:** typically 5-sided, 1–2.5 mm in diameter, internodes often 60–120 mm long, with hairs having 4–8 appressed rays, becoming glabrescent except near nodes; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** mostly opposite (first node typically alternate), rarely whorled at individual nodes, palmately lobed with 3 or 5(–9) lobes, long-petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, fused to petioles at base; petiole  $\pm$  sheathing node, above cylindrical, 30–120 mm long,  $\gg$  blade, fleshy, bearing as many as  $6 \pm$  linear to narrowly triangular scarious bracts (easily mistaken as stipules), the bracts in range  $< 1.4$  mm long, membranous, somewhat fringed; blade depressed-ovate to roundish kidney-shaped or broadly ovate, 5–25(–30)  $\times$  (5–)10–35(–45) mm, cordate to truncate at base, lobes obtuse-ovate to obovate, sinuses less than to midpoint, each lobe entire to shallowly 3-lobed with or without a weak point at tip, palmately veined with 3 principal veins at base, pubescent with stalked stellate hairs. **Inflorescence:** simple umbel, axillary (paired umbels at most nodes), 1–5-flowered, subsessile on very short peduncle, bracteate, stellate-pubescent; bract subtending pedicel narrowly triangular,  $< 0.5$  mm long, membranous; pedicel short. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral,  $1 \times 0.5$  mm across; **sepals** 5, erect, unequal, narrowly triangular, 0.2–0.5 mm long, colorless, acuminate to acute, fringed or not,  $\pm$  persistent in fruit; **petals** 5,  $\pm$  ovate to oblong and cupped around anther, 0.3–0.4 mm long, greenish white, not strongly incurved or pointed at tip, lacking midridge on upper (inner) surface, stellate-pubescent; **stamens** 5, free, ascending; filament  $\pm 0.3$  mm long, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal,  $\pm 0.2$  mm long, length  $<$  width, greenish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior with platform (stylopodium, styler tissue) on top, compressed bell-shaped, at anthesis 0.3 mm and inconspicuously lobed soon becoming 4-angled, green, stellate-pubescent, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 2,  $\pm 0.1$  mm long including conic projection (stylopodium), styles and stigmas colorless or aging red. **Fruit:** schizocarp, of 2 dry, 1-seeded halves (mericarps), 4-angled with outer (dorsal) faces concave, mericarps hemi-ovoid,  $1.5\text{--}2.3 \times 1.5\text{--}2$  mm,  $\pm$  inflated but eventually collapsed in space between inner and outer fruit wall, stellate-pubescent on external surfaces, midridge on curved surface where mericarps originally attached. **Seed:** compressed-ovoid, slightly smaller than fruit wall. Late March–early June.

Native. Annual rarely encountered as a springtime ground cover on moist, shaded slopes in southern oak woodland of the eastern SMM and SMMNRA Cheeseboro (SH). *Bowlesia incana* bears scattered stellate hairs throughout and produces tiny flowers that can only be studied with high magnification. This weak-stemmed, trailing annual also occurs in South America, where it undoubtedly evolved, and from there was carried northward to California, presumably via natural means.

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