

Brickellia ELL. BRICKELLBUSH

Brickellia californica A. Gray, CALIFORNIA BRICKELLBUSH. Shrub, ± winter-deciduous, many-stemmed from base, principal branches typically ascending to erect, 60–140 cm tall; shoots puberulent to tomentose, with nearly sessile glandular hairs, mildly aromatic.

Stems: cylindric, faintly striped on young stems soon aging tan and covered with tannish tomentose hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole flattish or slightly channeled, 2–15+ mm long, tomentose; blade triangular-ovate to deltate, 10–60 mm long, length ≥ width, cordate to truncate at base, irregularly serrate to serrate-crenate, acute to slightly obtuse at tip, 3-veined from base with principal veins raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** heads, in narrow, leafy, paniclelike arrays or axillary clusters, paniclelike array 150–250 × 30–80 mm, many-headed, head discoid, ca. 3 mm across, 8–18-flowered, bracteate, puberulent and with sessile glandular hairs; bract subtending peduncle leaflike, reduced to ca. 5 mm long along branchlets; peduncle very short, typically < 1 mm long, tomentose and with sessile glandular hairs; **involucre** narrowly cylindric, to 10 mm long, phyllaries 19–26(–35) in 5–6 series, tannish, green-veined (purplish), outer phyllaries short-ovate, ± 1 mm long, puberulent, intermediate phyllaries to 1.2 mm wide, scarious on margins, jagged at tip, ± glabrous, the innermost phyllaries long-linear, to 8.5 × 0.7 mm, glabrous, with scarious margins, 2-veined; receptacle flat, lacking bractlets (paleae), very narrow. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 0.3 mm across; fragrant at nighttime; **calyx (pappus)** of ca. 25 capillary bristles in 1 whorl, 5–7 mm long, pale reddish brown; **corolla** 5-lobed; tube narrowly cylindric, 6–7(–8) mm long; lobes triangular, ca. 0.3 mm long, light greenish to cream yellow; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube ca. 2 mm from base, ± included; filaments short; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, 1.7–2.3 mm long, dark yellow, rounded at base, elliptic at tip with a membranous scalelike appendage ± 0.3 mm long, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, ± cylindric, tapered to base, shallowly 10-ribbed, with upward-pointing short hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, to 8.5 mm long, pubescent at base, 2-branched, the branches 4–4.5 mm long, brownish above midpoint. **Fruits:** cypselae, straight, narrowly cylindric inversely conic, 3.3–3.7 mm long, 10-ribbed, light brown, puberulent with ascending hairs, with a small hemispheric callus at base; pappus 5–7 mm long, tawny. Mid-July–early November.

Native. A relatively common shrub of chaparral and coastal sage scrub mostly on relatively dry slopes throughout the range, but also occurring on rock faces and rocky areas above streams as well as in other associations. *Brickellia californica* begins to flower during midsummer drought, and its extremely narrow, nonshowy flowers are fragrant at nighttime, available for pollination by Lepidoptera.

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