

*Chorizanthe* Benth. SPINEFLOWER

*Chorizanthe parryi* S. Watson var. *fernandina* (S. Watson) Jepson, SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SPINEFLOWER. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, several–many-stemmed at base, each axis 2-forked or near base 3-forked, decumbent or erect (small individuals), 2–15 cm tall, to 60 cm across; shoots with basal leaves and lower cauline leaves, strigose, lacking glandular hairs, in fruit appearing reddish en masse from changes in shoot and involucre pigmentation. **Stems:** ± cylindrical with many inconspicuous low ridges, < 3 mm basal diameter, green becoming reddish orange or brownish orange, ascending strigose-villous. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole slightly channeled, 5–35 mm long, pubescent; blade of rosette leaves spatulate to oblanceolate or narrowly oblong, 5–40 × 2–13 mm, gradually tapered at base, entire, acute to rounded at tip, midrib only conspicuous, pubescent but upper surface more sparsely so; blade of cauline leaves similar to rosette leaf blades but smaller, 7–10 × 1.5–2.5 mm. **Inflorescence:** involucre-enclosing units (1-flowered cymes) in terminal, flat-topped, cymelike arrays, also with several solitary involucre along lower main stem, bracteate, hairy like shoot; bracts at node 2–3, each subtending a branch or branchlet, bract subtending the lowest involucre leaflike and petiolate, oblanceolate to elliptic, 5–15 × 1.5–7 mm, reduced upward, of the uppermost involucre narrowly lanceolate to awl-like or scalelike, 2 × 0.3 mm + straight awns ± 0.5 mm long; bracts subtending involucre often 2 and opposite, occasionally 3 and whorled (1 also lower main stem). **Involucre** bell-shaped and 6-lobed (teeth), urn-shaped (ventricose) at base, tube at anthesis (1.5–)1.7–2 mm long, 6-ribbed, with green ribs united by narrow and obscure membranes, grayish pubescent with whitish to grayish strigose-villous hairs having the longest hairs along ribs, becoming reddish or purplish in fruit, 3-angled; lobes continuous with ribs of tube, divergent, dimorphic, alternately long (outer lobes) and short (inner lobes), straight-awned, the longer 3 lobes (1–)1.5–2(–3) mm long with awns 0.5–1 mm long, the shorter 3 lobes 0.5–1 mm long with awns (0.2–)0.5–0.7 mm long; solitary involucre along main stem sometimes larger, in fruit with lobes spreading, with tube to 3 mm long, the larger lobes to 6 mm long and the smaller lobes to 2.5 mm long; pedicel 0.3–0.5 mm long, white, glabrous. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 1.5–2.2 mm across; exerted from involucre; **perianth** 6-lobed, lobes (tepals) in 2 whorls, unequal and dimorphic, 2.5–3 mm long; tube cup-shaped, 1–1.3 mm long + throat 0.5 mm long, 6-ribbed, ribs green and membranous between ribs, the ribs keeled on throat and aging keeled along most of length, outer tube strigose on ribs above midpoint, the hairs white and upward-pointing and never exceeding lobes; lobes spreading, white, sparsely hairy, outer whorl (calyx) oblong to oblong-obovate, 1.2–1.3 × 0.9–1.1 mm, jagged or short-dentate to entire on margins, rounded at tip, inner whorl (corolla) oblong to linear-oblanceolate, 1–1.2 × 0.6–0.7 mm, entire to short-dentate or jagged and wavy on margins, acute at tip, with greenish midvein below midpoint becoming reddish on lower surface; **stamens** 9, arising near base of perianth tube, short-exserted with anthers openly exposed but not extending above corolla lobes; filaments erect, 1.8–2.5 mm long, white, wider and finely villous at base, glabrous approaching anther; anthers short-versatile, dithecal, oval, 0.5–0.6 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, ± 2.5 mm long; ovary superior, lanceoloid, 1.6–2.2 × 0.6–0.8 mm, green, 3-sided and triangular in ×-section, 3-angled or 3-keeled, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 3, 0.7–1.3 mm long, whitish; stigmas minute-capitate, pale green or whitish. **Fruit:** achene (diclesium),

lanceoloid, ca. 1.8 mm long, conspicuously 3-ribbed, glossy scarious and semi-translucent tannish to whitish, often with persistent bases of styles. **Seed:** lanceoloid and slightly smaller than ovary, dark purple or tan at base, reddish in middle and dark purple to almost black approaching tip. Late April–Mid-July.

Native. Listed. Annual very narrowly restricted taxon of California, protected and listed as endangered, so no collection of any kind is allowed without official permit. For years, *Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina* was presumed extinct until a population was discovered at Ahmanson Ranch in 1999 and subsequently is now known from patchy, local populations of the SH in Los Angeles Country and several others in adjacent Ventura County, growing on exposed surfaces of the Modelo Formation on very thin soils and typically surrounded by highly disturbed grassland dominated by invasive species. During good years, such as 2006, the local micropopulation can be so dense that one cannot avoid stepping on individuals. Peak flowering is around late May.

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