

Chorizanthe Benth. SPINEFLOWER

Chorizanthe staticoides Benth., TURKISH RUGGING. Annual, slender-taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, scapose (canopy = inflorescence), spreading to erect, divaricately branched in inflorescence, in range 3.5–25 cm tall; shoots with only basal leaves, basal leaves withered or blade abscised when flowering, strigose to villous-tomentose. **Stems:** cylindric, < 2 mm diameter, very short with condensed internodes at base, elongating into peduncle of inflorescence. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole shallowly channeled, to 15 mm long; blade ovate or elliptic to obovate or inversely heart-shaped, in range 5–20(–30) × 2.5–10(–25) mm, long-tapered at base and grading into petiole, entire, obtuse to truncate or short-notched at tip, with only midrib visible, dull, upper surface villous or sometimes glabrescent, lower surface ± scaly. **Inflorescence:** involucre-enclosing units (1-flowered cymes) in terminal, flat-topped arrays, array with many, congested involucre, repeatedly 3-forked (often 2-forked below terminal involucre); peduncle erect (terminal inflorescences) or ascending (lateral inflorescences), 3–20 mm long, green but becoming strong purplish red, ± strigose but villous at base, secondary and higher order branchlets progressively shorter, aging strong purplish red, branchlets short, congested, terminated by an involucre; bracts 3 at node, each subtending a branch or branchlet, sessile, commonly awl-shaped or lanceolate-linear and stiff, 2–5 mm long reduced upward, spreading or arching to decurved (lower ones) and needlelike or hooked at tip (upper ones), sometimes at the lowest node leaflike and petiolate-spatulate; involucre either lacking a subtending bract or terminal involucre subtended by 2 bracts (having suppressed development of lateral branchlets). **Involucre:** ± cylindric to narrowly bell-shaped or urn-shaped and 6-lobed, tube at anthesis 2–3 × 0.7–1 mm increasing to 5–7 × 1.5 mm in fruit, the longest in the lower forks of inflorescence, green and reddish, 6-ribbed, with ribs united by narrow membranes, grayish pubescent to tomentose (especially in fruit); lobes continuous with ribs of tube, divergent, alternately long (outer lobes) and short (inner lobes), fanglike compressed side-to-side, awned and hooked at tip, dimorphic, outer lobes initially ca. 0.7 mm long increasing to 3.5 mm long in fruit, with 1 lobe > other outer lobes, inner lobes initially ca. 0.4 mm long increasing to 2.3 mm long in fruit (involucre at lower forks initially larger but not increasing in fruit); flower sessile. **Flower:** bisexual or ultimate flowers staminate, radial, 2–2.7 mm across; **perianth** 6-lobed, lobes (tepals) in 2 whorls, unequal and dimorphic; tube cylindric, 2–3 × 0.9–1.2 mm, ≥ involucre, 6-ribbed, greenish on ribs, pale green and membranous between ribs, upper portion whitish or pale pink, outer tube with long hairs on ribs at base of lobes and top of tube; lobes pale to dark pink or purplish pink (white), outer whorl conspicuous and spreading over rim of involucre, oblong to oblong-obovate, 1.2–1.5 × 0.7–0.8 mm, rounded or sometimes slightly notched at tip, inner whorl ± included, erect, 1–1.1 × 0.5–0.6 mm, rounded, but often with margins recurved and appearing acute at tip; **stamens** 9, arising near base of perianth tube, exerted sequentially (commonly with 3 anthers dehiscent at a time); filaments erect, 2.5–3.8 mm long, whitish (white), strongly hooked in bud and prior to exertion; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, oblong, (0.25–)0.5–0.7 mm long, light to dark purplish pink, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow to light amber; **pistil** 1 (absent in staminate flower); ovary superior, fusiform, 1–1.3 × 0.3 mm, somewhat 3-sided in ×-section, glossy green, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles

3, initially strongly coiled becoming ascending and 1.5–2.4 mm long, light purplish pink (white); stigmas minute, spherically capitate, pale green to whitish. **Fruit:** achene (diclesium), lanceoloid, 1.5–2.5 × 0.6–0.7 mm, 3-angled except at base, reddish purple at base to very dark purple approaching tip, with 3 papery, reflexed styles having semi-transparent wall tannish to whitish and conspicuously 3-keeled. **Seed:** lanceoloid and 3-angled, slightly smaller than fruit, deep purple or tan at base, reddish at midpoint, deep purple to almost black approaching tip. Early March–early July.

Native. Annual common throughout the range in openings of coastal sage scrub and chaparral, often occurring in dense local patches during favorable years. *Chorizanthe staticoides* is easily recognized by its pink flowers, which are showy en masse by having spreading perianth lobes (tepals). Within range one tiny population is known from the lower south-facing slope of Mountclef Ridge (Wildwood Regional Park, SM) having white flowers that are included in the involucre, and white flowers have been observed in other localities, but otherwise such plants are indistinguishable from the common form.

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