

*Dichondra* Forst. & Forst. f.

*Dichondra occidentalis* House, WESTERN DICHONDRA. Perennial herb, drought-deciduous, stolon-bearing, fibrous-rooted, mat-forming, < 12 cm tall, with adventitious roots at nodes; shoots with erect, long-petiolate leaves, leaf blades oriented  $\pm$  vertical, wavy to somewhat inrolled especially when stressed; stolons shallow. **Stems (stolons):** cylindric, 1–1.5 mm diameter, flexible, wiry, initially white (pink) aging brown, woolly (lanate) with forked, soft hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole  $\pm$  cylindric at base and channeled above, to 105 mm long, length varying with height of leaf from stolon, white and lanate at base and aboveground green and sericeous; blade kidney-shaped to heart-shaped, 12–35 mm wide, cordate at base, entire and wavy on margins or appearing broadly crenate, notched at tip, palmately veined typically with 3 conspicuous veins, dull, upper surface glabrous, lower surface sericeous-strigose. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, axillary and arising along young, white stolons, bracteate; bractlets subtending pedicel 1–2 (bracteole), acute, 1 mm long, green or pure white, hairy on lower surface; pedicel 1–5 mm long, lanate. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 3–5 mm across, facing upward; **calyx** 5-lobed, bell-shaped, 2–2.5 mm long, green to white, hairy, faintly to obscurely veined; lobes unequal, obtuse to acute, = tube; **corolla** 5-lobed, broadly funnel-shaped with spreading lobes, dark rose aging purplish with pale pink lobe margins; tube < 1 mm long and wide; throat short; lobes oblong to ovate, 1.5–2 mm long; **stamens** 5, fused to top of corolla tube, exserted; filaments 1 mm long, white to pinkish, tapered to tip; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.3 mm long, reddish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale pink; **nectary disc** around base of pistil, yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, 5-sided, green or whitish, villous, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 2, exserted, ca. 3 mm long, 1 style slightly shorter, fused at base 0.3 mm, white to pinkish, with colorless hairs on base; stigmas oblique-capitate. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscence irregular, 1–2-seeded, if 1-seeded  $\pm$  spheric, if 2-seeded 2-lobed, 2–2.7  $\times$  3.5–4 mm wide, villous. **Seed:** subspheroid or with 1 side somewhat flattened (where fruit 2-seeded), 2.3–2.5  $\times$  2 mm,  $\pm$  dull brown. Late February–early May.

Native. Perennial, stolon-bearing ground cover occasional and patchy in coastal sage scrub in SMM and SH. Flowers are small and inconspicuous because they form at ground level or along the edge of a boulder on creeping stolons.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson