

*Dudleya* Britt. & Rose LIVEFOREVER

*Dudleya blochmaniae* (Eastw.) Moran subsp. *blochmaniae*, BLOCHMAN'S DUDLEYA.

Perennial herb, ± leaf-succulent, drought-deciduous (late spring), with a small corm, fibrous-rooted, initially ± rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, acaulous, decumbent and spreading with ascending or erect inflorescence, 3–10 cm tall; shoots with 3–12 basal leaves withering before flowering, glabrous; corm subterranean, spheric to taprootlike, in range < 4 mm diameter. **Stems:** = peduncles. **Leaves:** ± opposite, simple, short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole indistinct from blade; blade oblanceolate to spatulate, 18–40 mm long, 2–4 mm thick, tapered at base, entire, rounded to acute at tip, venation obscure, green and minutely spotted rose-purple (= solitary or small clusters of pigment cells in linear files), glistening from scattered, minute water-filled cells. **Inflorescence:** cyme, axillary, 45–130 mm long with longer ones decumbent (± 1-sided when prostrate), typically several-forked, to 45-flowered, flowers erect, bracteate, glabrous, glaucous with whitish surface wax on young flower buds, bracts, and axes; peduncle cylindrical, 25–80 mm long, ± fleshy, < 1 mm at base but thicker above, whitish to pinkish and minutely linear-speckled rose-purple; bracts along peduncle 8+, leaflike (also treated as cauline leaves), ± helically alternate (sometimes opposite near base of peduncle), sessile and often ± clasping, succulent and typically to 3 mm thick, triangular-ovoid to lanceoloid, 2.5–9 × 1.5–6.5 mm, pigmented like leaves; bractlet ± opposite flower or not, 2–5 mm long; pedicel at anthesis 0.5–4 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 8–13 mm across and widely open; **calyx** 5(–6)-lobed, fused only at base; lobes erect and appressed to corolla, triangular-ovate, 1.5–3 × 1.2–2 mm, fleshy, light green and purple-spotted, glaucous; **corolla** 5(–6)-lobed, fused at base; tube 0.5–1.2 mm long, greenish; lobes spreading, narrowly ovate, 4–6 × 2.4–2.7 mm, acute at tip, keeled with conspicuous midridge, white with crimson to purplish red midridge on keel and sometimes visible as midstripe on upper surface; **stamens** 10(12; 2× corolla lobes) in 2 whorls, whorls alternate and opposite corolla lobes and fused to short corolla tube; filaments erect, subequal, 3–4.5 mm long, tapered to a point at tip, pale greenish white or yellowish; anthers basifixed, dithecal, narrowly ovoid, 1.1–1.4 mm long, deep reddish orange to strawberry red, sometimes yellow-mottled, longitudinally dehiscent, aging purple after pollen discharged; pollen bright yellow; **nectaries** 5(–6), opposite corolla lobes at base, short-stalked, transversely elliptic to slightly 2-lobed, to 0.4 × 0.5–0.8 mm, pale yellowish green; **pistils** 5(–6), ascending, 3–5 mm long; ovaries superior and fused at base, each narrowly conic but somewhat flattened on lateral sides, light greenish, 1-chambered with ± 10 ovules attached to outer wall; styles = ovaries, 1.2–1.5 mm long, abruptly tapered to a minute, terminal stigma. **Fruits:** follicles, spreading, dehiscent along inner edge, each to 6-seeded, ovoid, 2.5–3 mm long, with persistent style to 15 mm long, before drying green with purple streaks on upper side. **Seed:** lanceoloid, ± 0.7 mm long, yellowish brown. Mid-May–late June.

Native. Ephemeral succulent perennial herb occurring on thin soil mostly on the westernmost edge of the range from Conejo Mountain to the coastal slopes. *Dudleya blochmaniae* is the smallest of our species. It appears with a small rosette of tiny leaves in

mid-spring, and is best noticed when the plant produces its distinctive white flowers. Rosette leaves wither before flowering begins. This species can be found in relatively dense local patches but is considered a rare species. Blochman's dudleya lives on slopes often with *D. lanceolata* and *D. verityi*, and interspecific hybrids have been documented from our range.

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