

Dudleya Britt. & Rose LIVEFOREVER

Dudleya verityi K. M. Nakai, VERITY'S DUDLEYA. Perennial herb, leaf-succulent, evergreen, taprooted, rosetted, generally forming cespitose clusters of 2–30(–100+) rosettes from branched caudex but sometimes having only 1 rosette, with axillary inflorescences 4–18 cm tall; shoots with rosettes 20–50(–80) mm across and having 6–10 fully expanded basal leaves, blue-gray, glabrous, glaucous with whitish wax. **Stems:** caudex 20–100 mm long, 2–10 mm thick. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade ascending to spreading, oblong-lanceolate, 20–50 × 4–8 mm, crescent-shaped to semicircular in \times -section and 2–3 mm thick, with upper surface concave or flat, 5–8 mm wide at base, light green but densely glaucous, entire, acute to acuminate at tip, obscurely veined, blue gray becoming purple-gray at tip and on lower surface, wounding purple-red at base, becoming twisted when dry. **Inflorescence:** cyme, axillary of 1–several weathered basal leaves, terminal on long peduncle with 5–15 bracts resembling succulent cauline leaves, many-flowered, typically 2–3 × 2-forked, cyme branches ascending, unbranched or 2-forked, ultimate branches 2–10-flowered, glabrous, glaucous; peduncle ascending, cylindric, in range 30–150 mm long, 3–6 mm diameter below fork, green becoming tinged purplish red on lower 1/3, lacking bracts near base; bracts along peduncle spreading, sessile, triangular to lanceolate, 8–10 × 5–7 mm, clasping at base, acute at tip; ultimate branches with flowers on upper side 20–70 mm long, with succulent bractlet \pm opposite pedicel and often displaced slightly upward; bractlet deltate-ovate to \pm heart-shaped, to 7 × 4 mm decreasing upward; pedicel ascending to erect, 3–5 × 1–2 mm, erect (not bent) in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, erect, urn-shaped, 5–7 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, fused at base, fleshy, 4–5 × 5–7 mm; lobes erect and appressed to corolla, triangular, 3–4 × 2–2.5 mm, green, glaucous with whitish wax; **corolla** 5-lobed, fused at base, 10–14 mm long, in bud nearly conic with an angle of $< 50^\circ$ at tip, \pm cylindric at anthesis but with spreading tips; tube 5-pleated, 1.5–2 mm long, whitish or pale yellowish green; lobes spreading, narrowly lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, 8–13 × 2–4 mm, brilliant greenish yellow to lemon yellow but greenish along midvein, stiff, curved to 90° at tip, weakly keeled; **stamens** 10 in 2 whorls, alternate with (outer whorl) and opposite (inner whorl) corolla lobes, fused to corolla tube, included; filaments \pm cylindric, long-tapered, free portion 5–7 mm long, 0.3–5 mm wide at base, slightly longer and wider for filaments alternate with petals, translucent light yellowish green, attached to tube for 1 mm (inner whorl) and 1.5 mm (outer whorl); anthers positioned at base of arching corolla tips, basifixed, dithecal, ellipsoid, 1–1.3 × 0.5 mm, brilliant yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen brilliant yellow; **nectaries** 5, opposite each ovary, kidney-shaped, 1 × 0.3 mm, light yellow or whitish; **pistils** 5, erect, 5–7 mm long; ovaries superior, 4–5 × 1 mm, fused at base for ± 0.7 mm, pie-shaped in \times -section, whitish, each ovary 1-chambered with many ovules attached to outer side; styles 1–2 mm long, pale to light green; stigma terminal, minute. **Fruits:** follicles, 5, many-seeded, ascending, narrowly lanceoloid, 4–5.5 mm long, ascending. **Seed:** \pm lanceoloid, ca. 1 × 0.3 mm, brown, with longitudinal, slightly wavy ridges. Early May–late June.

Native. Leaf-succulent perennial herb endemic to the westernmost edge of the range growing on volcanic rock faces on north-facing slopes of Conejo Mountain and at several

other nearby localities. *Dudleya verityi* tends to form clumps of glaucous basal rosettes, but also can be found growing next to the perennial *D. lanceolata* and the annual *D. blochmaniae*, with which it can hybridize. In addition, *D. verityi* is closely related to *D. cymosa*, with which it can form fertile hybrids, and some workers have hypothesized that within range there are populations of hybrid origin that arose earlier between *D. verityi* and *D. cymosa* var. *agourensis*.

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