

*Epilobium* L. FIREWEED, WILLOW HERB

*Epilobium brachycarpum* C. Presl, FIELD WILLOW HERB. Annual, taprooted, lacking basal rosette, typically 1(–2)-stemmed at base, ± erect and open with ascending branches, in range 25–225 cm tall; shoots with leaves tufted on unexpanded axillary shoots, in range typically glabrous (except for inflorescence), glaucous on green shoots. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 7 mm diameter, green becoming tannish, smooth but later with outer tissues peeling in irregular strips. **Leaves:** mostly alternate but typically opposite at base of main shoot and sometimes on axillary shoots near plant base, simple, short-petiolate and sessile, without stipules; petiole channeled or slightly so, 0–4 mm long; blade linear to narrowly oblanceolate or narrowly elliptic, 10–50 × 2–6 mm, often folded along midrib and appearing 1/2 as wide, entire or minutely dentate on margins, narrowly acute to acuminate at tip, pinnately veined with only midrib conspicuous, glaucous. **Inflorescence:** panicle of leafy racemes, open, glabrous below but finely glandular-pubescent in upper inflorescence; bractlet subtending flower at anthesis typically linear-elliptic, 2–4 mm long, positioned slightly above base of pedicel; pedicel < 1.5 mm long increasing to 3+ mm in fruit, with fine, short, radiating glandular hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 4–14 mm across; erect in bud and at anthesis, in bud with radiating, short, fine glandular hairs; hypanthium above ovary, narrowly funnel-shaped, 1.5–6(–16) mm long, 4-veined or 8-veined with red-purple veins, internally ± ciliate on rim below stamens; **sepals** 4, ascending, acuminate-lanceolate, 2–4.5(–8) mm long, green, with midvein; **petals** 4, deeply 2-lobed, narrowly and deeply heart-shaped (sinus to midpoint), (2–)4–10(–15) mm long, rose (white to light purple or light purplish pink), often with rose-purple veins; **stamens** 8 in 2 whorls, free, arising from hypanthium, dimorphic; filaments < sepals, light pink or creamy white, outer filaments 2× inner filaments; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.9–1.1 mm long, cream-colored or light purple, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen creamy white, in permanently united tetrads (visible at 10×), held in a mass by minute (viscin) threads; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, linear–narrowly ellipsoid, at anthesis 6–10 mm long, straight, 4-lobed, 4-chambered, each chamber packed with a single stack of ovules; style thicker than filaments, 6–6.5 mm long; stigma at same level or slightly higher than outer stamens, unequally 2–4-lobed, sometimes with a larger lobe alternate with a smaller lateral lobe, lobes erect, appressed. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent with 4 valves, many-seeded, linear, 15–35 mm long, straight, squarish in ×-section, 4-chambered, glabrous or with some fine glandular hairs. **Seed:** compressed-obovoid, 1.2 × 0.7 mm long, brownish, finely textured (tiny grainlike particles, granulate), bearing a tuft of numerous hairs just beneath tip, the hairs 8–9 mm long, white, very fine. Late June–late October.

Native. A tall, erect annual flowering in the heat of summer, mostly in open locations and meadows along the margin of southern oak woodland. Most collections of *Epilobium brachycarpum* have been made away from the immediate coast from Las Virgenes Road westward in SMM and SH.

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