

Erigeron L. FLEABANE DAISY

Erigeron foliosus Nutt. var. *foliosus*, LEAFY FLEABANE, FLEABANE ASTER, THREAD-STEMMED FLEABANE. Perennial herb, with woody roots and weakly defined caudices (not obviously taprooted), several-stemmed at base, principal shoots initially unbranched below flowering canopy, forming lateral flowering branches to 250 mm long from tip toward the plant base, spreading to ascending, 30–100 cm tall; shoots with cauline leaves, often having tufted leaves at nodes from unexpanded axillary shoots, sparsely short-hairy to nearly glabrous, the larger hairs with conic bases, lacking glandular hairs. **Stems:** ridged, to 3 mm diameter but the widest midshoot (not at plant base), with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, brittle, striped green and yellowish; stems of lateral flowering shoots with pulvinuslike swelling at base especially on upper side at axillary bud. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade linear or threadlike to oblanceolate-linear, 8–67 × 1–3 mm, entire with “teeth” = conic bases of hairs on margins, acute at tip, only midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, sparsely short-hairy mostly on margins and upper surface. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal ± flat-topped, leafy, open, several-headed, cymelike arrays (flowers solitary), head radiate, 15–25 mm across, of 15–48 ray flowers and 50+ disc flowers, bracteate, strigose; peduncle angled, 20+ mm long (= main axis if head solitary), slender, with leaves grading into linear bracts, reduced to 1.5 mm long approaching head, strigose or with sparse hairs; **involucre** deeply cup-shaped, in range 5–6.5(–7) mm wide, phyllaries many in ± 4 graded series, narrowly lanceolate and ca. 1.7 mm long (outer phyllaries) to narrowly oblanceolate or linear and to 5 mm long (inner phyllaries), green aging brown, with thickened midvein and membranous margins, aging scarious, short-strigose on midvein with upward-pointing hairs, generally with short glandular hairs submarginally; receptacle flat, lacking bractlets (paleae), shallowly pitted with fleshy teeth surrounding each ovary. **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, ca. 1.5 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 20–25 capillary bristles and several hairlike scales (setae), dimorphic, outer setae inconspicuous and without teeth, < 0.4 mm long, bristles 2.3–3.3 mm long, whitish; **corolla** minutely 2–3-toothed; tube 1.5–2 mm long, light green; tube and throat sometimes with several hairs; limb initially erect later widely spreading, oblong, 5.6–11 × 1–1.7 mm, pink-purple to light purple, lavender, or bluish lavender, with 3–4 dark parallel veins; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, compressed-ellipsoid with 2 yellowish orange or clear wings, ± 1 mm long, with some short hairs above midpoint, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style 2.4–3.1 mm long, pale yellow, 2-branched, the branches exerted, ascending, wishbonelike, subequal, 0.4–0.6 mm long, orange-brown but paler on margins, flat on inner face, acute at tip, short-papillate on margins. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, 0.8–1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 20–29 capillary bristles and numerous hairlike scales (setae), dimorphic, outer setae inconspicuous and without teeth, < 0.4 mm long, bristles at anthesis 3.5–4 mm long, whitish; **corolla** 5-lobed, cylindric, 3.6–4.5 mm long; tube short, 0.5 mm diameter, pale greenish; throat whitish at base to greenish yellow above, 5-ribbed; lobes suberect, thick-acute, 0.5 mm long, yellow; **stamens** 5, fused to top of corolla tube; filaments ca. 1.3 mm long, white becoming orange yellow approaching anthers; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, slightly exerted, basifixed, dithecal, 1.5–2 mm long including short tails at base and narrowly acute appendage at tip, vivid yellow to green-yellow,

longitudinally dehiscent; pollen vivid yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, compressed-ellipsoid to compressed-obovoid with 2 colorless wings, 1 mm long, white, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style slightly exerted above anthers, 2.5–3.8 mm long, pale yellow, 2-branched, the branches ascending, equal, wishbonelike, 0.5–0.6 mm long, golden yellow, truncate to short conic at tip, stigmatic at tip. **Fruits:** cypselae, monomorphic, compressed-oblong, 2–2.3 × 0.4–0.6 mm, tannish to pale brown with 2 reddish brown ribs, with whitish callus at base, sparsely strigose with several appressed hairs mostly above midpoint; pappus persistent, with short setae and ca. 25 ascending fused at base, straw-colored bristles 2.5–3.5(–4) mm long. Mid-May–early August.

Native. Perennial herb occasionally observed in openings in chaparral and coastal sage scrub or also on the edges or in shade of southern oak woodland, growing in clay or loam. *Erigeron foliosus* tends to grow with nearly horizontal shoots widely spreading from the ground, either projecting from a slope or entangled with neighboring perennials, but it can be found on burns with more upright vigor. Two varieties were originally recorded in range, but recently both are treated under variety *foliosus*.

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