

Geranium L. CRANESBILL, GERANIUM

Geranium dissectum L., CUTLEAF GERANIUM. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, several-stemmed at base, ascending to erect, in range 12–40 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, cauline leaves unequal at node (1 with shorter petiole and smaller blade), stiff-hairy, lacking glandular hairs on vegetative plant. **Stems:** cylindric, to 3.5 mm diameter, swollen just above each node, green or tinged pinkish (node and swelling never red), strigose to having downward-pointing nonglandular hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate (basal leaves) and opposite (cauline leaves), deeply palmately lobed with 5–7 principal lobes at least 3/4 to base with irregular sublobes, long-petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to flared base of petiole, triangular, 4–7.5 mm long, whitish tinged reddish or red with paler midvein, entire and short-ciliate on margins (lacking teeth), long-acuminate at tip, glossy and glabrous on upper surface, short-hairy on lower surface; petiole cylindric except at flaring base, to 115 mm long (basal leaves) reduced upward to 35 mm long, short-hairy with descending hairs, sometimes reddish; blade roundish to broadly ovate, in range 20–35 × 20–35, principal lobes ± long-rhombic in outline with elliptic or lanceolate to oblanceolate sublobes, sublobes with a small reddish point (mucro) on obtuse tip, palmately veined to principal lobes and principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface glabrescent with sparsely short-strigose hairs below midpoint, lower surface short-hairy with upward-arching hairs especially along veins. **Inflorescence:** 2-flowered cyme, arising at node on side opposite cauline leaf with another axis continuing shoot, with short nonglandular hairs and dense pilose glandular hairs to 0.4 mm long and heads colorless or red; peduncle ascending, at anthesis of first flower 2–3 mm long increasing to 10 mm long in fruit, glandular hairy; bractlet subtending pedicel = 2 acuminate stipules, ascending, to 1.5–3 mm long, ± red, persistent; pedicel ascending to spreading, to mm long, light green, densely glandular-hairy. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 5 mm across; **sepals** 5, overlapping in bud with exposed surfaces pilose glandular-hairy, ± erect, lanceolate with terminal red or red-tipped awn ± 1 mm long, 5–6 × 1.8–2.2 mm increasing slightly and erect in fruit, light green with narrow, membranous margins, 5-veined from base (outer sepal) to 3-veined, entire, awns with several long stiff hairs on the tip; **petals** 5, ascending, obovate lacking claw, in range mostly 2.9–5(–5.8) mm long, white at base to strong rose-purple above, 3-veined from white base, short-ciliate on white margin, notched (obcordate) at tip with shallow sinus; nectaries 5, opposite sepals, ± semicircular, fleshy, pale green with dark green center; **stamens** 10 in 2 whorls, free, outer whorl arising lower on receptacle than the inner whorl; filaments cupped-ovate base with linear tip, ± 1.5 mm long (outer stamens) and 2 mm long (inner stamens), 0.6 mm wide at base, white base with white to pale violet, incurved tip, erect, short-hairy on base and short-ciliate; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.5 × 0.5 mm, light violet with deep violet lines, anthers of outer whorl placed lower, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light violet; **pistil** 1, at anthesis ca. 4 mm long; ovary superior, 5-lobed, ca. 1 mm long, each lobe compressed side-to-side, hidden by dense cover of ascending white hairs, 5-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style column 2–3 mm long, evenly pilose glandular-hairy with hairs to 0.4 mm long, 5-branched, the branches 0.4–0.6 mm long, arched outward, purple-red and papillate-stigmatic on inner side. **Fruit:** schizocarp, of 5 dry, 1-seeded mericarps dehiscent on inner face separating from base by coiling upward,

before dehiscing 14–15 mm long with the persistent, central style column; fruit body ellipsoid, ca. 2.5 mm long, dark brown, bristly with radiating brownish, nonglandular hairs; beak in range coiled like a comma, ca. 11 mm long, attached at upper point on inner face of fruit body, with glandular hairs on inside of coil. **Seed:** oblong, $\pm 1.8 \times 1.2$ mm, dull brown, often sunken on 1 or 2 faces, conspicuously pitted, the pits \pm in longitudinal rows and defined by a low network of walls, with hilum a point at bottom of face next to base. Early April–mid-May.

Naturalized. Annual not recorded in earlier editions of the flora but now known from several isolated grassland populations, especially abundant in a field with *Rumex acetosella* at Trippet Ranch in the Village of Topanga (SMM), where it probably had been overlooked. *Geranium dissectum*, cutleaf geranium, has deeply lobed blades that overall resemble blades of *G. carolinianum*, and they can be found growing together, but the petal color of *G. dissectum* is a rich, strong rose-purple that is distinctive, versus a much lighter pink-purple in Carolina geranium, and its stigmatic style branches are much shorter. If mericarps are available, there are technical ways to tell the two species apart.

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