

Herniaria L. RUPTUREWORT, HERNIARY

Herniaria hirsuta L. var. *cinerea* (DC.) Loret & Barrandon, HAIRY RUPTUREWORT. Annual, taprooted, many-stemmed at base, mat-forming, densely short-branched, main branches 4–20 cm long, in range prostrate, < 2 cm tall; shoots gray-green, densely short-hirsute with a mixture of stiff hairs and shorter soft hairs, the stiff hairs straight, tapered, erect to ascending, < 0.5 mm long, the shorter hairs erect, < 0.2 mm long. **Stems:** cylindrical, 0.5–1.5 mm diameter, pale green, visible only from lower side, mostly short-hirsute with soft hairs. **Leaves:** alternate (or opposite for the basal nodes but later difficult to observe), simple, ± sessile, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to stem, membranous aging scarious, deltate to ovate or roundish, 0.4–1 mm long, short-ciliate on margins, acute at tip; blade oblanceolate or obovate to elliptic, typically 2–5 mm long, entire and short-ciliate with straight hairs on margins, acute at tip, venation obscure but midrib evident below midblade, short-hirsute with mostly stiff hairs. **Inflorescence:** leafy cyme, axillary, densely clustered along stems, 1–7(–10)-flowered, bracteate, puberulent; bract opposite cyme leaflike; bractlet subtending pedicel ± ovate, < 0.5 mm long, whitish membranous aging scarious; pedicel 0–0.2 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, < 1 mm across, 1.5 mm long, nonshowy; hypanthium cup-shaped, ca. 0.25 mm deep; **sepals** 5, unequal, lanceolate to narrowly ovate, 0.6–1.2 mm long, mostly green but pale green to whitish on membranous margins, lacking awnlike tip, pubescent with rigid hairs to 0.4 mm long and sometimes with finer short hairs; **petals** absent; **stamens** 2–4 without anthers (sterile) and 2(–3) fertile, free, included; filaments < 0.4 mm long (sterile stamens) and ca. 0.2 mm long (fertile stamens); anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, heart-shaped to ± ovoid, ± 1.5 mm long, yellowish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish; **pistil** 1, < 0.6 mm long; ovary superior, spheric, ± 0.25 mm, green, papillate above midpoint, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, < 0.3 mm long, fused at base; stigmas papillate. **Fruit:** utricle, 1-seeded, obovoid, ca. 1 × 0.6 mm long, scarious with papillae above midpoint, with persistent style; concealed within persistent calyx. **Seed:** ± compressed-ovoid, 0.5–0.7 mm long, glossy dark red-brown to orange-brown, smooth. Late March–mid-May.

Naturalized. Annual collected several times in SMM and SH growing in full sun on hard-packed roads, unpaved parking lots, and trails. *Herniaria hirsuta* is an inconspicuous, prostrate weed native to southern Europe; it has a highly compact growth form and tiny, nonshowy flowers in highly condensed, leafy cymes, including stipulelike bractlets subtending flowers.

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