

*Pectocarya* DC. COMB-BUR

*Pectocarya linearis* (Ruiz Lopez & Pavón) DC. subsp. *ferocula* (I. M. Johnst.) Thorne, SLENDER PECTOCARYA, NARROW-TOOTHED PECTOCARYA. Annual, taprooted, weakly rosetted, several-stemmed at base, with principal shoots radiating 2–20+ cm, prostrate to decumbent, 3–9 cm tall; shoots strigose with appressed white hairs pointed toward tip. **Stems:** cylindric, < 2 mm diameter, green, tough, flexible, hairs soft. **Leaves:** helically alternate, sometimes appearing opposite at the lowest nodes, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade linear, 5–40 × 0.5–2 mm, the widest at base and ± sheathing stem, entire, acute at tip, only midrib evident and sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** leafy, spikelike cyme, with flower appearing opposite each leaflike bractlet, flower erect, becoming nodding and widely spaced in fruit; pedicel 0.3–0.5 mm long increasing 2–3×, strigose. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 1.7–2.5 mm across; **sepals** 5, unequal, lanceolate-ovate, 1–1.5 × 0.4–0.7 mm increasing to 2.5 mm long in fruit, 2 ascending sepals > 3 sepals, green, strigose, persistent; **corolla** 5-lobed, trumpet-shaped (salverform), 1.5–2 mm long, glabrous; tube cylindric, ± 0.7 mm wide, whitish; throat spreading, white, with 5 small dimples opposite corolla lobes, with 5 fleshy appendages and balloon-shaped hairs at base of throat; appendages opposite lobes, yellow; lobes unequal, rounded, ± 0.7 mm long, white; **stamens** 5, fused to midpoint of corolla tube, included; filaments ca. 0.25 mm long, white; anther dithecal, ± 0.3 mm long, yellow, dehiscent laterally; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1, included; ovary superior, deeply 4-lobed, ± 0.3 mm long, green, glabrous, with developing wing and teeth, each lobe with 1 ovule; style attached to receptacle and arising from center of ovary lobes, ± 0.5 mm long; stigma notched. **Fruits:** nutlets, 4 (typically all maturing), widely spreading, 2–4 × 0.5–1 mm, strigose, with 10–18 hooked and ± translucent bristles at tip, with lateral margins and sometimes at tip, the margin upturned, straw-colored, divided > midpoint or almost to nutlet into a few teeth, the teeth narrowly triangular, long-tapered, terminated with ± translucent, hooked bristle. Mid-December–late March.

Native. A tiny winter and early spring annual found throughout the range on open ground in scrub communities and on grassy slopes. The minute flowers of *Pectocarya linearis* are white and cannot be studied properly without good magnification. Mature fruits are absolutely required for proper identification, and this plant is distinguished by having prominent, hooked teeth from the tip to the base of each wing.

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