

*Sanicula* L. SNAKEROOT, SANICLE

*Sanicula crassicaulis* DC, PACIFIC SANICLE. Biennial or short-lived perennial herb, taprooted, rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, 25–130 cm tall; andromonoecious; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, glabrous, aromatic ± like celery (*Apium*); taproot blackish brown. **Stems:** typically 8-sided with low ridges, typically 5–7 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, radish red to red-purple at base to green above; hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply 3–5-palmately lobed and veined, long-petiolate, without stipules; petiole of basal and lower cauline leaves to 200 mm long, > 2–4× blade, reduced on upper cauline leaves, reddish and often winged at base, with 3 low, longitudinal ridges, having colorless, glandlike bodies on upper 2 ridges especially approaching blade, hollow; blade of basal leaves heart-shaped to roundish, 50–150 mm wide, length < width, lobes obovate, each with 0–2 sublobes, central lobe the widest, to 50 mm wide and tapering to > 10 mm at base of lobe, serrate on margins with teeth having slender points, pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and somewhat raised on lower surface, dull; blade of cauline leaves decreasing, with oblanceolate to lanceolate central lobe and 2 smaller lateral lobes or lacking lateral lobes on smaller leaves. **Inflorescence:** modified compound umbel, terminal and axillary to cauline leaves, compound umbel on long peduncle, typically having a terminal primary ray with only 1 umbellet + 2–4 peripheral primary rays each forming 3 umbellets at tip in a cymelike array, the lesser compound umbels headlike, umbellets hemispheric, 3–6 mm across, having terminal umbellet opening first, in bud green becoming yellowish green and then green in fruit, umbellet 5–22-flowered with 0–10 staminate flowers and 3–12 bisexual flowers, bracteate, glabrous; bract subtending peduncle = cauline leaf, decreasing upward; peduncle stemlike, strongly 8-ridged, at anthesis to 30 mm long, green, hollow; **involucre** subtending peripheral primary rays of subequal bracts, bracts typically free, leaflike, < 15 mm long, petiole with conspicuous, wide-membranous wings, to 3 mm long, wavy and with wings terminated by the lowest paired primary lobes of the bract, each primary leaflet only 3-lobed; primary rays 6-ridged, at anthesis < 1 mm long increasing in fruit; bract subtending secondary rays reduced from bract of primary rays; secondary rays conspicuously 4-ridged; involucre of bractlets subtending outer pedicels 6–9, ± fused at bases, bractlet lanceolate to ovate, 1–5.5 mm long, the larger ones subtending bisexual flowers and commonly toothed but also lobed near base, green with scarious margins; pedicel of staminate flower 1.2–1.6 mm long, of bisexual flower 0.2–0.8 mm long increasing somewhat in fruit. **Staminate flower:** radial, ca. 2 mm across; **sepals** spreading, acute, 0.5–0.7 mm long, green with midvein, persistent; **petals** 5, heart-shaped in natural outline with long-acuminate tip permanently looped inward, ± 0.6 mm long (1–1.4 mm long including tip) × 0.5–0.7 mm, pale yellowish green to light yellow, with ridge on inner surface, midvein slightly raised on outer surface; **stamens** 5, free, looped inward prior to anthesis; filaments spreading at maturity, ± 1 mm long, yellowish to light yellow; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, oval, 0.3–0.4 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** aborted with 2-lobed, diminutive platform (stylopodium, stylar tissue) in center. **Bisexual flower:** bilateral, 2 mm across; **sepals** spreading, acute, 0.5–0.7 mm long, green with midvein, persistent; **petals** 5, heart-shaped in outline with long-acuminate tip permanently looped inward, ± 0.6 mm long (1–1.4 mm long including tip) ×

0.5–0.7 mm, pale yellowish green to light yellow, with midridge on upper (inner) surface; **stamens** 5, free, looped inward prior to anthesis; filaments spreading at maturity,  $\pm$  1 mm long, light yellow; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, oval, 0.3–0.4 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior and 2-lobed with diminutive, nectar-producing platform (stylopodium, stilar tissue) on top, bell-shaped somewhat compressed side-to-side, at anthesis ca. 1 mm long, green, bearing spreading, inward-hooked prickles, the hooks transparent, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 2, divergent, ascending and exerted before anthesis, 1–1.3 mm long, green. **Fruit:** schizocarp, of 2 dry, 1-seeded halves (mericarps), mericarps half-ellipsoid,  $2.5\text{--}5 \times 2$  mm, with stout, radiating, hooked prickles on outer sides, the prickles 0.5–1 mm long and with bulbous bases; staminate flowers often persisting among fruits in umbellet. Early February–mid-May.

Native. Perennial herb (possibly biennial herb) occurring throughout the range in relatively moist, often shady habitats often neighboring shrubs in chaparral and in understory of southern oak woodland. *Sanicula crassicaulis* has a set of lobed basal leaves, and therefore its blade is less dissected than other species.

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