

Tauschia Schltdl.

Tauschia arguta (Torrey & A. Gray) J. F. Macbr., SOUTHERN TAUSCHIA. Perennial herb, taprooted, several-stemmed at base, ± rosetted with a series of shoots arising along a branched, creeping taproot, with ascending to erect inflorescences 27–85 cm tall; andromonoecious; shoots glabrous, aromatic reminiscent of carrot (*Daucus*); taproot trailing just below surface, tough, limber, to 10 mm diameter, in ×-section with crescent-shaped wood and a thick zone of phloem, bark dark brown. **Stems:** cylindric, << peduncle, solid below peduncle. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately compound with 1–3(–4) pairs of lateral leaflets, long-petiolate, without stipules; petiole sheathing with winglike margins, 55–220 mm long, basal portion whitish, ridged on lower side, hollow; blade typically broadly ovate in outline, 35–180+ × 30–115 mm, bright green; rachis broadly channeled, ridged on lower side, minutely hollow; petiolules 0–9 mm long; blades of leaflets ovate to heart-shaped or lobed (3-lobed), 19–85 × 11–60 mm, the first lateral lobes often larger and lobed or not, the large terminal leaflet often 2-lobed divided below midpoint with its lobes and resembling lateral leaflets, ± flat, flexible, easy to tear and not leathery, truncate to cordate at base and asymmetric (lateral leaflets) or symmetric (terminal leaflet), serrate-dentate on margins, acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins slightly raised on upper surface or both surfaces, with conspicuous minor vein network, somewhat glossy. **Inflorescence:** compound umbel, terminal, slightly domed and open, with 11–25 umbellets, umbellets hemispheric, to 30-flowered, with outer bisexual flowers and central staminate flowers, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle erect to ascending, 130–450+ long, >> leaves, with 19–23 ridges, green with pinkish to purplish ridges, hollow; **involucre** of bracts subtending primary rays absent or occasionally with 1–2 diminutive leaflike bracts to 30 mm long; primary rays spreading to ascending, unequal, 25–75 mm long increasing to 85 mm long in fruit, strongly ridged, occasionally with 1 bract at ± midpoint; involucre of 0–6(–8) spreading bractlets subtending pedicels of umbellet, bractlet narrowly lanceolate or elliptic to linear or oblanceolate, (2–)6–11 mm long, entire or the larger ones often with teeth above midblade, acute to acuminate with a fine point at tip, glossy with conspicuous venation; pedicel at anthesis 2–4 mm long increasing at least 2× in fruit. **Staminate flower:** ± radial, ca. 5 mm across; **sepals** 5, spreading to ascending, narrowly triangular to toothlike, 0.2–1 mm long, green with a colorless to yellowish tip, persistent; **petals** 5, obovate with strongly and permanently incurved tail-like tip touching base, 1.1–2 mm long, yellow to green, with prominent midridge on upper (inner) surface, veiny, glabrous; **stamens** 5, free; filaments strongly hooked in bud becoming ascending, 3.5–4.5 mm long, yellow to yellowish green; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, oblong, 0.6–1.2 mm long, yellow to light yellow, longitudinally and sideways dehiscent; pollen pale yellow to whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, vestigial, with 2 greenish, lobed, crescent-shaped platforms (stylopodium, styler tissue) on top; styles 2, diminutive. **Bisexual flower:** ± radial, ca. 5 mm across; protogynous and having spreading styles with receptive stigmas on each umbellet before anthesis of staminate flowers; **sepals** 5, spreading to ascending, narrowly triangular to toothlike, 0.2–1 mm long, green with a colorless to yellowish tip, persistent; **petals** 5, obovate with strongly and permanently incurved tail-like tip touching base, 1.1–2 mm long, yellow to green, with prominent midridge on upper (inner) surface, veiny, glabrous; **stamens** 5, free; filaments

strongly hooked in bud becoming ascending, 4–4.5 mm long, yellow to yellowish green; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, oblong, 0.6–1.2 mm long, yellow to light yellow, longitudinally and sideways dehiscent; pollen pale yellow to whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, with 2-lobed, white crescent-shaped platform (stylopoidum, stylar tissue) on top, compressed bell-shaped, 1 mm long, green, strongly 8-ribbed with 2-ridged sutures and 3 ribs per side, truncate, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 2, spreading, at anthesis 2–2.5 mm long increasing in fruit, pale green. **Fruit:** schizocarp, of 2 dry, 1-seeded halves (mericarps), mericarps \pm ovoid or oblong but flattish on adjoining face, 5–6.5 \times 2–2.6 mm, tannish to dark brown with light tan ribs, with 5 ribs (3 ribs on back and 1 along each edge), the ribs 0.4–0.6 mm tall, tannish, and narrow. Late December–late April.

Native. Perennial herb fairly common in shrubland throughout the range, occurring commonly along rocky edges among sandstone boulders, especially in habitats somewhat shaded and moist during early spring. Leaves of *Tauschia arguta* are typically 1-pinnately compound with unlobed leaflets, but one can find individuals with deeply lobed leaves, especially in shady population, and therefore are somewhat intermediate in form with the typical 2-pinnately lobed leaf of *T. hartwegii*. Each flowering shoot has several lower cauline leaves. Bractlets of the involucrel of each umbellet may or may not exceed the flowers. Fruits of *T. arguta* are generally oblong in shape and conspicuously 5-ribbed.
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