

**PALMATE-BRACTED BIRD'S BEAK
(CORDYLANTHUS PALMATUS)**

Federal/California status: Endangered/Endangered
California Native Plant Society List 1B

Photos



Description

Palmate-bracted bird's beak is an annual plant in the figwort family (Scrophulariaceae). It may attain a height of 12 inches (30 cm) and has many branches rising from the main stem. Stems may be thinly to densely hairy with salt crystal excretions present. Coloration of leaves and stems is grayish-green and usually very pale. Flowers are small (up to 1 inch or 2.5 cm long) and whitish. They are arranged in dense spikes and are nearly hidden by leaf-like bracts. Flowering occurs in late spring through the summer. Because it is considered to be parasitic to the roots of other plants, it is found growing close to other plants, especially bush seepweed (Suaeda moquinii), rusty molly (Kochia californica), and saltgrass (Distichlis spicata)

Habitat

Colonies may occur in alkali sink habitats in the Central Valley.

Range/distribution

Palmate-bracted bird's beak is currently known to occur in Alameda, Glenn, Colusa, Yolo, Madera, and Fresno counties, and was formerly observed in San Joaquin county.

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