Chondrilla juncea L., RUSH SKELETONWEED. Biennial or perennial herb, taprooted, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base with ascending, green-stemmed branches (virgate), typically erect, in range 40–125 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and lower cauline leaves withering during flowering; with milky sap. **Stems:** ± cylindric with several low ridges, to 10 mm diameter, when young grayish green and photosynthetic (dotted with stomates), tomentose often with scattered rigid, spreading hairs at plant base, glabrous above or with some tomentum near leaf bases and clusters of heads. **Leaves:** helically alternate (occasionally opposite for lower cauline leaves), pinnately lobed to unlobed, petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile (upper cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole to 10 mm long, winged; blade of basal leaves irregularly lobed, oblanceolate to obovate, (40–)90–160 × (15–)20–45 mm, sinuses 1/3–midway to midrib, broadly acute at tip, pinnately veined; blade of cauline leaves linear to narrowly elliptic or narrowly lanceolate, in range 15–90 × 1–10 mm, decreasing upward, typically entire on translucent margins but sometimes with paired or unpaired teeth or lobes at base, narrowly acute to acuminate at tip, pinnately veined with conspicuous midrib typically raised on both surfaces, glabrous, glaucous. **Inflorescence:** heads, in axillary, condensed cymelike arrays on terminal, interrupted, spikelike axes, each cymelike array of 1–8 heads, head ligulate, 13–17 mm across, 9–11(–12)-flowered, bracteate; axis stemlike, glabrous to glabrescent; bract subtending cymelike array leaflike, much-reduced upward; peduncle and array axis densely tannish white-tomentose; bracts subtending head (calyculus) several and minute, appressed-ovate, 1–2 mm long, 1-veined, densely hairy; **involucre** at anthesis cylindric and appearing ribbed and in fruit lanceoloid, (9–)10(–12) × 2.5–3(–5) mm, tomentose, phyllaries 5–9 in ± 1 series, linear-lanceolate, 8–9 mm long, strongly keeled, often purple-tipped, ciliate on margins near tip, the innermost phyllaries colorless on margins, margin curved outward and interlocked with adjacent phyllary of the outer set; receptacle flat, without bractlets (paleae), pitted. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, ± 2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of many, equal, slender bristles in 1 series, 5–6 mm long, white; **corolla** 5-lobed (teeth), 10–13.5(–18) mm long, readily withering; tube 4.5–5 mm long, 0.5 mm wide at orifice, white, with upward-pointing hairs; limb ± rectangular, ca. 8 × 2.2 mm, yellow, with 5 minute teeth at truncate tip; **stamens** 5, attached to corolla tube just below orifice; filaments ± 0.5 mm long; anthers fused into tube surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, 4.5 mm long, yellow grading to yellow-orange at tip, arrow-shaped at base, acute at tip, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, oblanceoloid, 1.5 mm long, beaked, the beak at anthesis ca. 0.3 mm long, green; style exserted, 11–13.5 mm long, white within corolla tube, exserted portion yellow with upward-pointing short-hairs, 2-branched, the branches 1.5–2 mm long; stigmas 2, with upward-pointing short hairs on outer faces, inner face smooth (at 10×) and stigmatic. **Fruits:** cypselae, beaked, overall 7.3–10 mm long; fruit body angular oblanceoloid and ca. 15-ribbed, in range ± 3 mm long, light brown, with warts (tuberculate) and scales on body below beak, the warts increasing in size and width approaching tip and terminating in a whorl of 5 thick, deltate scales at base of beak; beak slender, in range 4.5–5 mm long, brown; pappus (5–)5.5–6 mm long, white, bristles ascending at 60º. Early August–early September.

Naturalized. A green-stemmed (virgate) herb native to Europe that has in this decade appeared in SMMNRA Palo Comado (SH), and which has the potential to become an invasive weed. *Chondrilla juncea* is a member of tribe including dandelion, and therefore

has milky sap and only ligulate flowers. The fruits of this species are apomictic, i.e., they develop directly from the ovary without pollination.
B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson