Claytonia gypsophiloides Fisch. & C. A. Meyer, COAST RANGE CLAYTONIA. Annual, fleshy, slender-taprooted with minute tuberous bodies on root, rosetted, loosely cespitose with axillary flowering shoots, 7–18 cm tall; shoots with highly condensed stems and numerous, grayish, spreading basal leaves, glabrous, glaucous. **Stems:** = axis of axillary flowering shoots. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade ± cylindric-tapered, 50–80 mm long, ca. 1 mm wide midblade from 3 mm wide at flared base, entire, blunt-acute at tip, venation obscure. **Inflorescence:** racemelike cyme (raceme), axillary, 10–15-flowered, bracteate, glabrous, glaucous; peduncle cylindric, 30–90 mm long, greenish becoming beige, pinkish, or reddish, glaucous, with a pair of bracts (= 2 cauline leaves of some authors) at 2/3–3/4 of length from base; bracts 2, fused and forming a V-shaped structure with bases encircling peduncle (perfoliate) or short-clasping at base, 6–31 × 1.5–2.6 mm, fleshy, in ×-section ± hemi-cylindric, acuminate at tip, fused laterally for 0.6–3.5 mm on bract side of peduncle and 0.7–2.5 mm on opposite side of peduncle forming a rim or short sheath; bractlet subtending only first branch of inflorescence, lanceolate, 2–5 × 0.6–2 mm; pedicel erect, 6.5–10.5 mm long increasing 2× and widely spreading and also arching downward at tip in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, in range 6–7.5(–10) mm across; **sepals** (bracteoles of some authors) 2, erect, unequal with outer sepal partially enclosing inner sepal, ovate, 2.1–2.6 × 1.3 mm (outer sepal) and 1.7–2.2 × 1.1–1.3 mm (inner sepal), green becoming pinkish, acute to rounded at tip, glabrous, parallel-veined, persistent; **petals** (petaloid sepals of some authors) 5, obovate, 4.5–6 × 2–2.8 mm, light pink to pale or light lavender with 1–several purplish pink veins, greenish at abruptly narrowed base, 2-lobed to notched or truncate at tip; **stamens** 5, opposite petals and fused to each petal base; filament free portions erect, 3.8–4.3 mm long, greenish at base then whitish becoming light pink at tip, flat; anthers dorsifixed and versatile, dithecal, narrowly oblong, 0.7–1 mm long, pink, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light amber yellow to pale yellow; **nectary disc** surrounding stalked base of ovary, low ringlike, producing copious thin nectar collecting at bases of stamens; **pistil** 1, ca. 3 mm long; ovary superior, obovoid, 0.5–0.8 × 0.5–0.6 mm, light yellowish green, glabrous, 1-chambered, each with 1 ovule attached at base; style 1–1.3 mm long, branching into 3 stigmas; stigmas ascending to erect, 1–1.3 mm long, white, papillate-hairy base to tip on outer face but only at tip on inner face. **Fruit:** capsule, 3-valved dehiscing top-to-base, 2–3-seeded, obovoid to ellipsoid, 2.1–2.5 × 1.5–1.7 mm, tannish, glabrous. **Seed:** slightly compressed-ovoid or compressed-ellipsoid, ca. 1.5 × 1 mm, dark brown, finely pebbled; having whitish elaiosome at micropylar notch. Late February–early April.

Native. Annual growing on talus slopes and along rocky ledges in native herb communities of the chaparral zone, at least from Westlake Village westward to SMMNRA Circle X Ranch, occurring with such special natives as *Thysanocarpus conchuliferus*, *Lewisia rediviva*, and *Leptosyne californica*. *Claytonia gypsophiloides* was previously unrecognized in the flora because plants of that form were assumed to be *C. exigua*, which is a close relative but has smaller shoots, inflorescences, flowers, and flower parts. The documented California distribution of *C. gypsophiloides* is in the northern counties, so an explanation is needed to explain why the species has not been recorded south of Monterey and Tulare County. Having larger, showier flowers, *C. gypsophiloides* has sometimes been grown in gardens, so there is a possibility that it could have been introduced to our

area from northern California, but its occurrence in range with interesting natives makes it more likely that the overall distribution of this species statewide needs to be studied.
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