Eriogonum giganteum S. Watson var. ***giganteum***, SANTA CATALINA ISLAND'S ST. CATHERINE'S LACE. Shrub, fall-deciduous, with inflorescences in range 130–250 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, foliage suedelike, densely white-tomentose. **Stems:** cylindric, initially 5–6 mm diameter, internodes several–20 mm long, gray-hairy, becoming covered with orange-brown bark, with ringlike leaf scars. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules (no ocrea); petiole encircling stem, flattish or slightly channeled, 10–30 mm long, densely tomentose; blade ± broadly ovate to oblong or elliptic, in range 20–85 × 12–50 mm, ± truncate to rounded at base, entire and ± wavy on margins, obtuse to rounded at tip and sometimes with a minute point, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, upper surface gray-green with matted short-tomentose hairs, lower surface light gray, densely matted, long white-tomentose. **Inflorescence:** involucre-enclosed units (cymes) in terminal arrays with ultimate branch ending in an erect, sessile or short-stalked involucre, each involucre containing 32–48 flowers; array repeatedly forked, extremely large (to 600 × 600 mm) and flat-topped, with 8+ orders of branching and dense subunits 50–100 mm across, 2–3 branches at each node, densely tomentose on all exposed surfaces; principal axis to 350 mm long, forked at all successive nodes with subsequent internodes progressively shorter, the lowest several nodes ± unequally 2–3-forked, and upper nodes unequally 2-forked; bracts at each node 3 in whorl, fused at bases and encircling stem, spreading (never appressed), at lower nodes leaflike and petiolate decreasing upward and becoming sessile, 1-order bracts oblanceolate to elliptic, to 40 mm long, ultimate-order bracts narrowly lanceolate to awl-shaped, 1.5–3 mm long; stalk subtending involucre < 1 mm long. **Involucre:** narrowly bell-shaped with 5 broad, shallow teeth, 2.5–3 × 2.3 mm long expanding to 3 mm wide after flowering, white-tomentose with 5 faint green veins, membranous between veins above midpoint; bractlets subtending pedicel 2(3), narrowly feathery (plumose), 1.2–2(–3) mm long, white to pale green, conspicuously villous; pedicel slightly curved to somewhat S-shaped or semi-hooked at tip, 2.2–2.8 mm long, light green, villous with ascending wavy hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 2.5–3 mm across, broadly funnel-shaped to dishlike, white-tomentose on greenish surfaces; protandrous; **perianth** 6-lobed, lobes (tepals) in 2 whorls; tube inversely conic to ± bell-shaped, 0.5–0.8 mm long, greenish; lobes ± monomorphic, obovate, 1.3–2.2 × 0.8–1.4 mm, outer whorl spreading to ascending, inner whorl slightly longer and tending to be erect to ascending, cupped (more pronounced in outer whorl), white with greenish midstripe aging salmon or brown, hairs absent along midstripe on inner surface; **nectaries** in perianth tube, = united cup with 3 units subtly 3-lobed; **stamens** 9, fused to perianth tube arising from lobes of nectary; filaments initially hooked inward becoming straight and exserted, 1.2–1.5 mm long, white, densely villous at base; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.25–0.4 mm long, light yellow becoming rose pink, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, 3-angled oblanceoloid, 0.8–1 × 0.3–0.4 mm, green becoming rose pink above midpoint, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 3, 1–1.8 mm long, initially irregularly coiled later ascending, white with rose pink stigmatic tip. **Fruit:** achene (diclesium), ovoid with base swollen by seed, 2–2.5 mm long, papery dull brown, conspicuously 3-angled from middle of seed chamber to tip. Late May–early October.

Naturalized (introduced native). Shrub endemic to Santa Catalina Island recently planted at Malibu Lagoon, from where it has reseeded itself there and appeared along Pacific Coast Highway at Zuma Beach. *Eriogonum giganteum* has the largest leaves of the local species and forms very large flat-topped inflorescences. Each subunit of the inflorescence produces thousands of flowers, which turn red-brown in fruit. These plants form many fertile fruits; anticipate that this cultivated form will become established along the foggy, sandy coastline that matches its habitat on the offshore islands. The other island varieties of this species are also grown in cultivation but have not yet escaped in our range.
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