Lagophylla ramosissima Nutt., COMMON HARE-LEAF, BRANCHED HARE-LEAF. Annual, taprooted, typically 1-stemmed at base, ascending (decumbent) with a widely spreading inflorescence, in range to 90 cm tall; shoots with cauline leaves abscising before flowering, villous. **Stems:** cylindric or inconspicuously ridged on lower stem, slender and wiry, becoming glabrescent. **Leaves:** opposite decussate at lower nodes with pairs connected as 2 low ledges across node, helically alternate above, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade linear-oblanceolate to spatulate, 30–120 × 1–5 mm, on lower cauline leaves dentate and ciliate on margins, on middle and upper cauline leaves entire, typically midrib only conspicuous and sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, densely silvery villous, upper surface inconspicuously glandular especially along midrib. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal, open, leafy, paniclelike arrays, head radiate, 8–11 mm across, with 5 ray flowers and 6 disc flowers, the central flower often 1 mm longer than others; bract subtending each branch leaflike; axes 0.3–1 mm diameter, wiry, with internodes 2–45 mm long; peduncle short, villous with ± bulbous-based silvery hairs, becoming glabrescent and tannish; bracts subtending head ca. 5 (calyculus), arising 0.5–1 mm below involucre, ascending, leaflike, lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, 3–5 × 0.8–1.2 mm, densely villous, with scattered tack-shaped glands on the outward-facing surface, the glands yellowish aging amber, the calyculus deciduous and leaving projecting bract bases; **involucre** inversely conic, 4.4–6.7 mm long, phyllaries 5 in 1 series, equal, completely enveloping each ray flower ovary, oblanceolate compressed front-to-back, 4–5(–7.5) × 1–1.3 mm, long-ciliate on margins, acute at tip, silvery villous, abscising with fruit; receptacle domelike, shallowly indented at ovary bases, pubescent only between disc flowers, with leafy bractlets (paleae) ≤ phyllaries, paleae fused in lower 1 mm to form a short, pleated tube between ray and disc flowers, palea ciliate, acute at tip, 3-veined, villous, membranous along lower 2/3 of margins. **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, typically 3–4 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** shallowly 3-lobed, straplike with sharply spreading limb; tube compressed, ca. 1 mm long, green, soft-hairy; limb wedge-shaped, in range 3–4(–5.5) mm long and wide, light yellow with purple veins raised on lower surface, lobes rounded at tip; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, obovoid compressed front-to-back, in range ± 3 mm long, at anthesis whitish becoming purplish, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exserted, ± 1.5 mm long, golden yellow, 2-branched near midpoint, the branches ascending. **Disc flower:** functionally staminate, radial, 1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** 5-lobed, narrowly funnel-shaped, 2.5–3.5 mm long; tube and throat yellowish, glabrous; lobes ascending, deltate, light yellow; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube; filaments ca. 1 mm long; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, short-exserted, basifixed, dithecal, oblong-lanceolate, ± 1 mm long, dark purple, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1, 3.5–4.5 mm long, abortive; ovary inferior, narrowly inversely conic; style broad and flat-lanceolate, 1–1.5 mm long, light yellow, unbranched, sparsely hairy. **Fruits:** cypselae, of only ray flowers, narrowly obovoid compressed front-to-back, in range 3–3.6 × 1 mm, in range dull dark brown to blackish, flattish on one side and angled and ridged on outer side, smooth, faintly striped longitudinally; pappus absent. Late May–late-September.

Native. Annual rarely observed growing in open fields or meadows on hard clay soil. *Lagophylla ramosissima* is a wispy plant that is inconspicuous during vegetative growth,

and cauline leaves are shed before flowering begins. In some places where *Lagophylla ramosissima* formerly occurred, invasive grasses have crowded it out. To date, *L. ramosissima* has not been collected in SH. A distinctive feature of this species is that the central disc flower projects above the other disc flowers.
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