

Euphorbia melanadenia Torrey, RED-GLAND SPURGE, SQUAW SANDMAT. Perennial herb, taprooted, many-stemmed at base, not rooting at nodes, mat-forming to decumbent or ascending with canopy resembling inverted cone, < 12 cm tall; monoecious; shoots 2-dimensional (plagiotropic), densely tomentose throughout (in range not becoming glabrescent); latex white, copious. **Stems:** cylindric, < 1.5 mm diameter, flexible, green aging red to deep purple, nodes slightly swollen, sparsely to densely tomentose. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, short-petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2 (4 per node), attached to node, free on upper side, free or at terminal nodes lower pair fused across node and early-deciduous, awl-shaped, < 1 mm long, greenish white aging pinkish, densely hairy; petiole to 1.5 mm long, curved to orient leaves horizontally, thick, densely hairy; blade markedly asymmetric, broadly ovate, in range 2.5–5.5(–9) × 1.5–4 mm, oblique at base, entire, obtuse (not notched) at tip, only midrib evident, appearing gray from dense, whitish mat of hairs. **Inflorescence:** cyathium (= involucre with staminate flowers and 1 pistillate flower), axillary, solitary per node; peduncle ≈ length of cyathium; cyathium 2–3 mm wide (including spreading glands and appendages), bracteate; **involucre** bell-shaped, ± 1 × 1–1.7 mm, green, densely tomentose, with 5 bracts and 4 glands; bracts fused most of length, with hairy, short-triangular free tips; glands alternate with bracts (1 absent), nectar-producing, raised, round or oval to crescent-shaped, 0.5–0.7 × 0.3 mm, fleshy, very dark burgundy aging almost black, depressed in center, appendaged just below gland, the appendage petal-like, to 1.7 × 0.9 mm, length ≥ gland, width at base ≤ gland, white or stained purplish next to gland, shallowly scalloped on outer margin, short-hairy on upper surface, tomentose on lower surface; staminate flowers 15(–20) in 5 clusters of 3(4), each with pedicel-like stalk, each cluster subtended by a bractlet; bractlet narrowly fan-shaped, ± 1 mm long, green at base with white, fringe (appearing like hairs within cyathium); on a pedicel-like stalk (gynophore), at anthesis gynophore short and erect, with only styles exerted, soon after gynophore elongating and becoming recurved with maturing ovary exerted. **Staminate flower:** reduced to 1 stamen; filament < 0.2 mm long; anthers conspicuously dithecal, each sac spheroid, ± 0.25 mm, golden brown to dark red, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow. **Pistillate flower:** reduced to 1 pistil; ovary superior, 3-lobed ovoid, ± 0.7 mm, densely tomentose, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 3, ± 0.7 mm long, 2-forked at midpoint, each branch club-shaped, fleshy, very dark burgundy or almost black; stigmas minute. **Fruit:** capsule, 3-seeded, 3-lobed ovoid, 1.5–2 mm long, reddish along edges, tomentose, elastically dehiscent along septa and chambers into 6 dry valves (some valve pairs remaining attached at base) and expelling seeds. **Seed:** quadrangular-ovoid, 1–1.3 × 0.5–0.6 mm, reddish brown beneath frosty-white to light tan epidermis, slightly wrinkled with a few circular depressions, grooved or dark-veined on obtuse, lower ridge, oily when poked. Mid-February–mid-July.

Native. A grayish, perennial herb rarely encountered in range, but locally abundant in parts of Griffith Park. Of all species of chamaesycoids in range, *Euphorbia melanadenia* is the one that is densely hairy throughout, and its blades are distinctly asymmetric. The cyathium is rather showy, sometimes three millimeters across, and has dark burgundy to black glands with wide white appendages.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson