

Githopsis diffusa A. Gray subsp. *diffusa*, SOUTHERN BLUECUP. Annual, fine-taprooted, thin-stemmed, decumbent, in range < 15 cm tall; shoots with only small cauline leaves, in range nearly glabrous. **Stems:** 3-sided, to 0.6 mm diameter, with 3 narrow, colorless wings, 2 wings descending from each leaf or bract, sparsely puberulent with sharp, backward-pointing hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade obovate to elliptic or oblong, 4–11 × 2–4 mm, minutely toothed on margins with to 3 teeth on each side, ± obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with only midrib conspicuous, dull, glabrous. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, terminal, subtended by leaflike bract and with an axillary shoot forming a sympodial stem, glabrous; bract leaflike; pedicel winged or not, 0.5–2.5 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 13 mm across (sepals); **sepals** 5, conspicuous, spreading from rim of inferior ovary, unequal, oblanceolate to linear, 4–8 × 1–1.3 mm, acute with 1 or 2 colorless short hairs at tip, entire or with 1 minute tooth per edge, scabrous on margins approaching tip and often with scattered short hairs on basal 0.5 mm of margins; **corolla** 5-lobed, in range 4–5 mm long, strongly 5-angled in bud; tube-throat ± cylindric, 3 × 1–1.2 mm, white, constricted in middle, 5-ribbed; lobes ascending, acute, 1–1.2 mm long, blue-lavender; **stamens** 5, free, included, 1.5–2.5 mm long, white; filaments erect, threadlike, sometimes ciliate at base; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.5–1 mm long, cupped inward and with central point at tip, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent; pollen colorless; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, ± compressed-cylindric or slightly flared at tip, 4–6 × 1.5 mm, 10-ribbed, roof depressed, 1-chambered with many ovules in 2 clusters; style arising in depression, 1.2–2 mm long, translucent-white to yellowish green, weakly 2-branched, mostly glabrous but hairy-papillate below fork, the stigmatic branches erect but later strongly recurved, < 0.5 mm long, conspicuously hairy-papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, dehiscent at top, many-seeded, cylindric within persistent, spreading sepals, to 9 mm long, 10-ribbed. **Seed:** angular fusiform, 0.6–0.8 mm long, glossy dark brown, finely striped. Late April–early June.

Native. Small annual first located in range by Carl Wishner from a shady environment on thin or shallow, rocky soil in southern oak woodland at SMMNRA Hennessy Ranch.

Githopsis diffusa is now known from small patches in similar shady habitats of SMM at SMMNRA King Gillette Ranch, SMMNRA Circle X Ranch, on a north-facing slope off Carlisle Creek west of Split Rock (occurring with *Heterocodon*), and in several spots in the vicinity of Castro Peak.

Five subspecies of *Githopsis diffusa* are recognized in California, and it is possible that two are present in range, hence the above description probably needs careful restudy during a spring when the careful comparisons can be made between the typical form and the western most populations, which have flowers large enough to be called *G. diffusa* subsp. *robusta* Morin (N. Morin, pers. comm.).

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