

Filago gallica L. (Asteraceae)
Narrow-leaved Filago

Description. Annual, herbaceous, 5-20 cm tall, stems erect, often branching at or below the middle, grayish woolly. Leaves alternate, 0.5-2 cm long, less than 2 mm wide, appressed to stiffly erect, linear to narrowly oblong, entire, revolute, the bases tapered, the apices acute to somewhat sharp-acuminate. Heads clustered near the branch tips, subtended and surpassed by erect, leaf-like bracts, discoid (all corollas radial and tubular), 3-5 mm long, cylindrical to ovoid and constricted near the apex. True phyllaries apparently absent and replaced by chaffy scales of which the outer 5 are in one series, tightly enfolding the outer flowers, densely woolly; inner chaffy scales several, somewhat flat. Flowers of two forms, the outer ones pistillate, strongly curved at the junction of the achene and the filiform corolla, the inner ones bisexual or pistillate, surrounded by a series of short, hyaline scales. Achenes of two forms, the outer ca 1 mm long, with a curved beak, becoming very hard, glabrous, pappus absent, the inner ones ca. 1 mm long, ovoid, minutely papillose, with a deciduous capillary pappus. In California, flowering in April to July. (Clapham et al. 1962, Ferris 1960, Holub 1976, Morefield 1993, Munz 1959).

Synonyms: *Logfia gallica* (L.) Cosson & Germ. (Holub 1976).

Geographic distribution. *Filago gallica* is native to Europe and northern Africa (Clapham et al. 1962, Holub 1976, Munz 1959). It apparently is naturalized in North America only in Oregon, California, and northern Baja California, and has also been introduced into Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii (Chapman 1991, Morefield 1993, Wagner et al. 1990, Webb et al. 1988).

Filago gallica was first reported from northern California and the Sierra foothills by Jepson (1925). By the middle of the 20th century, it still was either narrowly distributed or remained obscure, because Robbins (1940), Robbins et al (1970), and Ferris (1960) merely referred to Jepson's 1925 report. Naturalized populations of *Filago gallica* occur on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands (Junak et al. 1997) and are reported from most counties west of the Sierra Nevada (Anonymous 1998).

Ecological distribution. In both natural and naturalized geographic ranges, *Filago* occurs on disturbed sites of waste areas, open ground in grassland and shrublands, and abandoned fields (Chapman 1991, Morefield 1993, Munz 1959, Robbins et al. 1970, Wagner et al. 1990, Webb et al. 1988).

Reproductive and vegetative biology. No literature discussing reproductive or vegetative biology of *Filago gallica* (or other species in the genus) was found. *Filago* presumably reproduces entirely by seeds. Like many small-flowered Asteraceae, *Filago* is presumably self-compatible and either self-pollinating or pollinated by wind (Proctor et al. 1996, Richards 1978) or both. Like other Asteraceae with a capillary pappus and small light seeds, *Filago* probably has a relatively high level of dispersability (Anderson 1992, Sheldon and Burrows 1973).

Weed status. *Filago gallica* is not considered a noxious weed in agricultural or horticultural practice, at least at a global level (not listed by Holm et al. 1977), nor is it considered a noxious

weed by the State Dept. of Food and Agriculture (Anonymous 1996) or elsewhere in the United States (Lorenzi and Jeffery 1987).

Fungal and insect pathogens. No literature was found that reported *Filago gallica* as a host of detrimental fungal or insect pathogens.

Herbicide control. No literature was found that reported herbicide treatment.

Literature Cited

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