

***Cryptantha spithamaea*, sp. nov.**

Herba annua erecta 5–20 cm. alta; ramis numerosis ascendentibus saepe simplicibus 1–2 mm. crassis plus minusve brunnescentibus cum pilis 0.4–1 mm. longis plerumque appressis haud abundanter vestitis; foliis firmissculis lineari-oblongatis vel linearibus 5–15 mm. longis 1–3 mm. latis, utrinque pilis saepe e pustulis orientibus appressis haud abundantibus vestitis, inferioribus oppositis mox deciduis majoribus 1–10 mm. distantibus, superioribus quam inferioribus dimidio minoribus saepe angustioribus; cymulis scorpioideis 3–6 cm. longis geminatis ebracteatis 1–2 cm. longe pedunculatis vel solitariis, floribus inferioribus bracteatis; floribus ut videtur uniseriatis, superioribus congestis, inferioribus non raro ad 1 cm. distantibus; corolla alba, limbo 1.5–2 mm. diametro, tubo ca. 2 mm. longo lobis calycis aequilongo; calycibus fructiferis strictis vel stricte ascendentibus 3–5 mm. longis, lobis linearibus quam nuculis saepe duplo longioribus, in costa pilis rigidis curvatis vel sinuosis armatis alibi pilis gracilibus mollibus appressis vestitis, apice erectis vel maturitate plus minusve divergentibus; ovulis 4, abaxiali semper maturante; nuculis 1 vel rariter 2 lanceoideis 2–2.5 mm. longis

laevibus nitidis, basi truncatis, apice acuminatis, dorso convexis, ventre obtusis, sulco clauso imam ad basim in areolam triangularem aperto; gynobasi ca. 1.5 mm. alto; stylo ca. 0.5 mm. longo, ad 0.5 mm. infra apicem nuculae attingente.

CALIFORNIA. Mariposa Co.: 3 mi. northwest of Coulterville, locally quite abundant on serpentine, May 16, 1937, *R. F. Hoover 2169* (TYPE, Gray Herb.); 2 mi. northwest of Coulterville, May 9, 1938, *Hoover 3394* (G). Tuolumne Co.: near Moccasin Creek near power-house, May 9, 1938, *Hoover 3388* (G); 3 mi. south of Chinese Camp, May 9, 1938, *Hoover 3380* (G).

This species is a member of the *Leiocarpaceae* and is probably most closely related to *C. hispidula* Greene of the serpentine areas of the inner North Coast Ranges. It is the only member of its group known from the Sierran foothills. From *C. hispidula* it differs in its solitary or geminate spikes and more elongate calyx-lobes. The plants are smaller and more abundantly and strictly branched.