

Dimorphotheca fruticosa DC., TRAILING AFRICAN DAISY, OSTEOSPERMUM. Subshrub, ± evergreen, short-lived, several-stemmed at base, from diffuse root system, with decumbent and trailing branches often > 100 cm long; shoots forming tufts of leaves from axillary buds on old and young stems, with scattered, short nonglandular hairs and denser, shorter, stalked glandular hairs having colorless to yellowish heads, mildly, pleasantly fragrant. **Stems:** cylindric, to 5 mm diameter, light green to purple, internodes < 10 mm long. **Leaves:** helically alternate (sometimes opposite or subopposite approaching peduncle), simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole flattened, to 15 mm long; blade oblanceolate or obovate to elliptic or spatulate, fully expanded 25–85 × 10–35 mm, thick and somewhat fleshy, long-tapered at base, entire or with several widely spaced, shallow teeth per side on margins, acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with only midrib conspicuous and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** heads, mostly solitary and terminal (several in a pseudowhorl array), head radiate, 40–75 mm across, with 13–21 ray flowers and ± 50 disc flowers, bracteate; peduncle 30–125 mm long, slightly expanded beneath head, short-pubescent with nonglandular hairs and denser glandular hairs, heads of glandular hairs sometimes aging reddish; bracts only on lower peduncle 0–2, leaflike but reduced and narrowly elliptic to linear; **involucre** bell-shaped, 10–11 mm wide, phyllaries many in 1–2 series, erect to ascending, unequal, lanceolate, 9–17 × 2–4 mm, outer phyllaries often > inner series, acuminate or with short point at tip, thick with a medial ridge, green with membranous margin, the margin colorless to light lavender or rose, often fringed; receptacle of inflorescence convex, without bractlets (paleae). **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, 5.5–6.8 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** minutely 3-toothed; tube ± 1.5(–2) mm long, white to light lavender, with conspicuous, glistening white, beadlike hairs (moniliform); limb narrowly elliptic to narrowly oblanceolate, 20–30 mm long, white to strong reddish purple, strong purple, or orchid (upper surface) and typically violet to darker or a blue shade of purple (lower surface), lower surface ± glossy and often with 4 darker stripes; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, wedge-shaped with 3–5 sides and ribs, 2.5 mm long, light green, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exserted, 4.5–5.5 mm long, 2-branched, white at base grading to strong purple above, the branches ± 1.5 mm long, dark purple and stigmatic on margins. **Disc flower:** appearing bisexual but functionally staminate, radial, ca. 2 mm across with spreading lobes; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** 5-lobed, 4–4.5 mm long; tube cylindric but constricted, ± 0.5 mm long, white, with conspicuous moniliform hairs; throat ± 3 mm long, strong purple; lobes narrowly triangular, ± 1 mm long, blue-lavender to deep purple, often with bulbous tip; **stamens** 5, fused to base of corolla throat; filaments ± 2 mm long, whitish to pale lavender; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, ± 2.5 mm long, dark purple, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen golden yellow; **pistil** 1, sterile; ovary inferior, compressed-obovoid, 2.5–3(–4) mm long, light green, 1-chambered; style ± 5 mm long, barely branched at tip, white at base grading to dark lavender and then to deep purple on papillate stigmas. **Fruits:** cypsela (of ray flowers), straight to slightly curved narrowly fusiform, 2–2.5 mm long, red-brown, shallowly 10-ribbed with short hairs along ribs. Mid-February–early July.

Naturalized. Subshrub commonly cultivated throughout the range as a border plant or ground cover and occasionally found on roadsides near homes, where the plants are

escaped cultivars. Trailing African daisies are now included as members of *Dimorphotheca* but elsewhere are treated in the genus *Osteospermum*. Plants cultivated in southern California have been developed through hybridization with other species, especially between *D. ecklonis* and *D. fruticosa*, and are propagated by cuttings. It is unknown which of the cultivars set fertile seed. If they do, wild populations may be highly variable. Our specimens have dark purple disc flowers, and trailing stems when buried will produce adventitious roots.

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