Scutellaria tuberosa Benth., DANNY'S SKULLCAP. Perennial herb, rhizomatous and forming tubers, fibrous-rooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, spreading via short rhizomes, ascending, 5–20 cm tall; shoots pilose to ± villous, in range the hairs < 0.5 mm long, glandular hairs typically absent, not aromatic; rhizomes connecting shoots to tubers, ± 1 mm diameter, white, sometime 4-ridged, with appressed scales, the scales triangular, 1–2 mm long, ciliate; tubers ± horizontal 10–40 mm belowground, elongate and indented like a miniature potato (*Solanum*), 5–20 mm long, off-white, short glandular-hairy; adventitious roots nodal. **Stems:** conspicuously 4-ridged (square in ×-section), < 3 mm diameter, green aging purplish, pilose to villous, with internodes typically < 12 mm long. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole 3–8 mm long, soft-hairy; blade ovate, 5–15(–20) × 4–12 mm, dull, truncate to broadly tapered at base, entire to crenate on margins, rounded to weakly notched at tip, often reddish at tip and on teeth, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, upper surface sparsely pilose, lower surface pilose with hairs especially along veins. **Inflorescence:** leafy raceme, terminal with flowers axillary and paired at nodes, at each node both flowers ascending and typically oriented in the same direction; bractlet subtending pedicel leaflike; pedicel ascending, 1.5–4 mm long, often ox-blood red, short-pilose, with bracteole subtending flower, bracteole linear, ± 0.5 mm long, reddish, pilose and often with a terminal tuft of hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 7.5–9 mm vertically across, villous with spreading fine hairs on outer surfaces; **calyx** short 2-lipped, 4–5.5 mm long; tube pinched on sides, with prominent transverse ridge on upper side, ± saddle-shaped behind ridge, green but ox-blood red along veins and on edge of transverse ridge, with a pair of ridges defining upper and lower halves, conspicuously pilose; lips rounded, < 1 mm long, ox-blood on margins and back of upper lip, equal in young bud; **corolla** 2-lipped, (4)6-lobed, 13–21 mm long, violet-blue, finely pilose-villous; tube + throat shallowly sigmoidal and narrowly funnel-shaped, whitish at base, 15-veined, internally villous in lower portion below free filaments; upper lip 3-lobed (unlobed), erect or outcurved, central lobe hooded and enclosing stamens and style, 6–7 mm long, lateral lobes when present semi-ovate, externally pilose-villous; lower lip weakly 3-lobed, = an upward arching palate with principal margin upcurved and lateral margins pointing downward, palate often with lavender or white and mottled violet, surface velveteen with cells convex to create violet-blue color; **stamens** 4, fused to upper corolla tube, dimorphic, 2 arising from lower side of corolla tube and slightly > upper lip, 2 arising from upper side of corolla tube and slightly < upper lip; filaments ± 8 mm long (lower stamens) and ± 4 mm long (upper stamens), pale lavender, pilose; anthers dorsifixed, with 1 fertile and 1 aborted sac (long stamens) or with 2 fertile sacs (short stamens), heart-shaped to kidney-shaped, ca. 0.8 × 0.8 mm, white, densely short-hairy around aperture, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **nectary disc** beneath ovary, with minute milky bodies; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, strongly 4-lobed, lobes obovoid, 0.5 mm long, green, covered with sessile glands, 2-chambered, each lobe with 1 ovule; style included and positioned opposite anthers of short stamens, attached to ovary base at center of ovary lobes (gynobasic), to 18 mm long (scaling with corolla length), lavender; stigma minutely 2-lobed. **Fruits:** nutlets, 4, top-shaped, 1.5–2 mm diameter, black, covered with irregularly shaped papillae, with or without sessile glands. Late January–late May.

Native. Annual growing on sunny, open patches in chaparral and southern oak woodland, most commonly observed after a burn, where it is not overwhelmed by taller annuals. *Scutellaria tuberosa* in our range has much shorter hairs than is typical for the species. It is curious how the flowers on the shoots are oriented all toward one side, and the blue color of the flower is not due to a blue pigment but from reflectance of light by the cells. B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson