

MERCED PHACELIA (PHACELIA CILIATA OPACA)

California Native Plant Society List 1B

Merced phacelia is an annual member of the waterleaf family (Hydrophyllaceae). The erect stems are 4 to 22 inches (10 to 55 cm) tall and branched at the base. Leaves vary in both size and shape, ranging from 1 to 6 inches, and from deeply-lobed to divided. Each branch tip is coiled like a scorpion's tail and holds many flowers. The individual flowers are approximately 0.5 inch long, bell-

shaped, and blue with pale centers. Merced phacelia blooms between February and May.

This plant is restricted to heavy clay soils on the Valley floor and adjacent low hills at elevations below 328 feet. It is known to occur in Merced County, and was collected near Le Grand, Merced, Planada, and Tuttle.

Photo: Not yet available.