Valerianella radiata (L.) Dufr. (incl. V. woodsiana), BEAKED CORNSALAD. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, 1(−several)-stemmed at base, with flat-topped flowering canopy ascending to erect, in range 14−40 cm tall; shoots with 1–3 nodes of petiolate basal leaves (soon withered) and widely spaced pairs of cauline leaves, in a pair of cauline leaf bases touching or somewhat fused, in canopy inflorescence branches ± equally forked, glabrate with minute, bristly hairs mostly confined to blade margins and stem ridges. **Stems:** 6-ridged, to 5 mm diameter, with 3 ridges, 1 descending from blade midrib and a pair of ridges descending from basal edges of the touching leaf blades, internodes to 85 mm long. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate (basal leaves and lower cauline leaves) and sessile (cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole flat and winglike, to 5 mm long but indistinct from blade, flared at base, midvein raised on lower side; blade of basal oblanceolate to spatulate, long-tapered at base, entire and bristly short-ciliate on margins, rounded at tip, pinnately veined with midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface; blade of sessile lower cauline leaves oblanceolate, long-tapered at base, blades of lower cauline leaves oblong, in range to 80×18 mm, decreasing upward to ovate with clasping, often subcordate bases and palmately veined, lower surface with occasional short hairs. **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme, terminal, repeatedly 2-forked with leaflike pair of bracts at lower nodes decreasing upward, forming 2 or 4 headlike clusters paired at top of plant, each condensed of opposite decussate branchlets, flat-topped, many-flowered, bracteate, essentially glabrous; peduncle above foliage stemlike conspicuously, narrowly 2-ridged on opposite sides descending from contact of bracts, to 40 mm long, green, with stiff short hairs along ridges; bract subtending branches at first node ovate, 6−20×4.8−12.5 mm, broadly tapered at base, with 1−3 pairs of serrate teeth below midblade or entire on margins, rounded to acute at tip, sometimes with very narrow membranous margins below midblade, palmately veined; internode above first fork stemlike, to 50 mm long, narrowly 2-ridged on opposite side or with other faint ridges; bracts in pair at second node narrowly ovate, to 10×6 mm, entire or sometimes with a pair of teeth at base; axes above second node to 20 mm long; bracts in pair at third node elliptic to oblong, to 5×2 mm and sometimes unequal in pair; axes above third node ca. 2.5 mm long, successive axes and bracts and bractlets decreasing in dense cluster in series to short and lanceolate at the youngest bud and 1-veined, each cluster with a terminal flower flanked with a pair of branchlets at base and each headlike cluster typically rectangular in face view and 8×4 mm with 20+ flowers. **Flower:** bisexual, ± radial, 1.5−2 mm across; calyx obscure, = rim on top of ovary < 0.2 mm long, green, lower edge longer than upper edge, puberulent; corolla 5-lobed, in range ca. 2 mm long; tube narrowly funnel-shaped, ca. 0.7×0.3 mm, white; throat wider funnel-shaped to bell-shaped, ca. 0.7×0.5−0.7 mm, white; lobes spreading, subequal, rounded to rounded-obtuse, 0.5−0.7×0.45−0.6 mm, pink to rose-pink (white); stamens 3, attached at midpoint of corolla; filaments ascending, 0.9−1.5 mm long, pale pink (white); anthers exserted, dorsifixt, dithecal, 0.35−0.4 mm long, pink (white), longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale pink or white; pistil 1, 3.5 mm long; ovary inferior, 3-sided ovoid, ca. 1.5×0.7 mm, green, puberulent, 3-chambered, only 1 chamber (wide chamber on lower side) with 1 ovule; style erect, exserted or not above anthers and curved...
toward the longest stamen, white; stigma lobes 3, terminal, ± 0.3 mm long, colorless and papillate. **Fruit:** achene-like, of 2 empty chambers and the third chamber with 1 loose seed above midpoint, elliptic in outline, 1.8–2.3 × 1.3–1.8 mm (many sterile), tan to light brown, having 2 inflated chambers and with short peak (“beak”) above the flatter, fertile chamber, glabrous at maturity.

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