

*Araujia* Brot. BLADDER FLOWER

*Araujia sericifera* Brot. Woody climber (liana), twining, having vigorous shoots often unbranched for long distances, a branch often paired with an inflorescence and alternating sides at successive nodes; shoots tending to be 2-dimensional (plagiotropic), downy short-tomentose; latex white, copious. **Stems:** cylindric, tough, flexible, never straight, internodes typically > 60 mm long and sometimes 200+ mm long, when young downy short-tomentose aging sparsely puberulent, often red-tinged or purple-tinged. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate, lacking stipules; petiole narrowly channeled, 8–30 mm long, soft-hairy like stem, bearing extrafloral nectaries at base of petiole and junction with blade and in the axil; blade triangular-ovate to triangular-lanceolate, in range 40–95 × 15–60 mm, truncate at base, entire and wavy on margins, short-acuminate to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, upper surface dark green, becoming somewhat glabrescent with scattered appressed hairs, lower surface grayish green, densely short-tomentose. **Inflorescence:** racemelike cyme, subaxillary, several–7-flowered, bracteate, downy short-tomentose; peduncle as long as petiole at node, cylindric, with projecting cylindric bases of pedicels and crescent-shaped bases of abscised bractlets; bractlet subtending pedicel sessile, narrowly elliptic to linear-lanceolate or narrowly oblanceolate, to 14 mm long decreasing upward, partially sheathing; pedicel cylindric, at anthesis 15–20 mm long, sometimes with 1 or 2 bractlets along axis (= bractlets of future flowers). **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 25–28 mm across, sweetly fragrant; **calyx** deeply 5-lobed; tube broadly and shallowly cup-shaped, 2–2.5 mm long; lobes ascending, somewhat overlapping at base, not appressed to corolla, broadly lanceolate to ovate, 9–15 × 4.5–7 mm, often wavy and somewhat turned backward on margins, acute to acuminate at tip, minutely puberulent; **corolla** 5-lobed, continuous with filament column above, white sometimes aging with purple streaks or blotches on throat and lobes to midpoint; tube-throat 11.5–15 mm long, white with pale green markings on outside, the base 5-angled, 4.5–5 × 7–8 mm; throat inflated at base and funnel-shaped above, with dimples at base of throat opposite sinuses, internally densely villous; lobes overlapping, spreading widely with recurved tips, ovate, ± 10 mm long, stiff, wavy, puckered at sinuses; **stamens** 5, fused into staminal column with filaments surrounding and free from lower pistils + anthers fused to the enlarged stigmatic head (stigma with anthers = gynostegium), with a whorl of appendages (corona) below anthers; filament column with a cupped area between lobes, bright white, 10-ribbed, fused to and continuous with corolla tube; corona having 5 hoods, the hoods alternate with corolla lobes, scoop-shaped, 2–2.5 mm long, with outcurved margins and concave faces, nectar-producing, without a horn; anthers dithecal, dehiscent along tip, flat and fused to sides of stigma except for a horny, projecting lateral wing and a terminal appendage; anther sacs maroonish on central outer surface; lateral wings ± triangular, ca. 1.5 × 1.2 mm, the widest at base, ± light yellow, appressed to adjacent wing of neighboring anther and forming a slit with a gland (corpusculum) joining pollinia positioned at top of slit; terminal appendages triangular or heart-shaped, white, the appendages together forming a star-shaped aperture on top of gynostegium and exposing yellow stigma; pollen united into pollinia, each pollinium flattened and oblong, ± 1 mm long, yellowish, 2 pollinia from adjacent anthers united by translator arms to the crimson corpusculum; **pistils** ± 2, 8.5–10 mm long, fused by the uppermost style and stigmas; ovaries superior, barely united at base, ovoid but flattened on common side, 3 × 2 mm,

green, 1-chambered with many ovules attached to inner side; styles 2, 1 mm long, tapered and fused at stigma; stigma capitate (includes some stylar tissue), 5-sided pyramidal, 2 mm long, yellow, with 2 erect, sigmoidal, hornlike beaks 3 mm long and translucent-yellow.

**Fruit:** follicle (only 1 ovary matures), dehiscent along a deep longitudinal groove, many-seeded,  $\pm$  erect with ascending to erect pedicel, ovoid with blunt tip, 90–120  $\times$  70 mm,  $\pm$  truncate at base, minutely puberulent appearing grayish green, lower portion bulging from seeds, above midpoint filled with long silky hairs. **Seed:** flattened hemi-ovoid with long, silken hairs, 5–6  $\times$  2.5–3 mm, brown, having raised to flattened faces, with  $>$  100 fine, white silken hairs attached to straight edge, margin thin and often inrolled; hairs spreading, ca. 30 mm long. Mid-June–early August.

Waif. A twining, horticultural, woody climber, which clammers over shrubs and has escaped very locally along the road passing through Long Valley on the western edge of SMM. *Araujia sericifera* bleeds copious white latex when injured. Viewed in whole, the flower appears fairly easy to interpret, but when the corolla is split open, great complexity is revealed. The highly specialized, central structure consists of stamens and pistils combined (gynostegium), and there are scooplike “hoods” projecting inward from the corolla tube. The follicle of *A. sericifera*, like other milkweeds, has many air-borne seeds bearing many fine, silken hairs, but even with the air-borne device, locally the seeds are too heavy to travel more than a very short distance.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson