

Calochortus Pursh MARIPOSA LILY

Calochortus albus (Benth.) Benth., WHITE GLOBE LILY, FAIRY LANTERN. Perennial herb, geophytic, bulb-bearing, 1-stemmed at base (apparently not cloning from bulb), ascending, in range 25–60 cm tall; shoots typically with a long basal leaf arising from bulb and several shorter cauline leaves, glabrous; bulb deep-seated, ovoid, to 30 × 18 mm, truncate and stipelike at base, acuminate at tip, white but covered with brown coat, the coat membranous with longitudinal fibers. **Stems:** cylindrical or 3-sided at base, 3–5 mm diameter, the widest just below first cauline leaf, green aging mottled purplish red, white or deep purple belowground; solid. **Leaves:** alternate, simple and sheathing at base (basal leaf) or sessile (cauline leaves), without stipules; blade of basal leaf strap-shaped to linear-lanceolate, 250–650 × 12–57 mm (green portion), the widest near midpoint, flat, entire, typically long-tapered and withered at tip, parallel-veined with veins flattish on upper surface and raised on lower surface, dull to glossy on upper surface near the stem and along veins on lower surface; blade of cauline leaf lanceolate, to 140 × 20 mm, decreasing upward, nearly sheathing or without sheath (upper cauline leaves), entire, long-acuminate at tip, with some conspicuous veins, glossy to somewhat dull green to bluish green, glaucous or not. **Inflorescence:** cyme, terminal and axillary, typically 2-flowered with flowers of slightly different ages, flowers nodding with ± closed perianth, bracteate; bracts opposite, lanceolate to narrowly ovate, = reduced cauline leaves; pedicel 20–55 mm long, ascending at base and recurved at tip, green, glaucous (sometimes appearing whitish). **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 16–25 mm across, subspheroidal to spheroidal; **sepals** 3, free, loosely appressed to petals or with tip diverging from petals, lanceolate to narrowly ovate and ± boat-shaped, (10–)13–18 × 5.5–9 mm, in range white with green parallel and cross veins, acuminate at tip, glabrous; **petals** 3, nectar-producing in lower central area, cupped and broadly obovate-roundish to elliptic, 20–30 × 18–25 mm (slightly longer if flattened), white, thick and stiff at base, elbowed at nectary, rounded at tip, ciliate on margins except near tip, glabrous on outer surface, with spreading, white multicellular hairs to 3.5 mm long on inner surface above nectary; **nectary** crescent-shaped, 4–8 mm wide, white to pale creamy white, of 4–7 transverse tiers of scales with 1–several per tier, the scales membranous, fringed with numerous lobes, the lobes 0.3–0.8 mm long, with many translucent papillae; **stamens** 6 in 2 whorls, free, ascending (i.e., appearing descending in the nodding flower); filaments thick, slightly compressed top-to-bottom and tapered, 6.5–8.5 mm long, 0.8–1.2 mm wide (outer stamens) and 1.2–1.5 mm wide (inner stamens), ± translucent-white; anthers basifixed, dithecal, oblong, 5–7 × 1.5 mm, creamy white, longitudinally dehiscent to the sides; pollen creamy white; **pistil** 1, 10–16 mm long; ovary superior, sharply 3-angled, pale green or pale yellow green, distinctly glaucous, 3-chambered, each chamber with many ovules attached to center; style 3-angled, 1.5–2 mm long, white, 3-branched, the branches cylindrical, ca. 1.5 mm long; stigmas erect later arching outward, white, stigmatic at tip and on inner sides. **Fruit:** capsule, septicidal, many-seeded, 3-angled with concave faces, 23–30(–40) mm long, straw-colored. **Seed:** ± ellipsoid to ovoid, comma-shaped or irregular, 1.8–3.8 × 1.2–2 mm, with rounded angles, brown to dark brown, conspicuously netlike in a longitudinal pattern of mostly hexagonal cells, certain sides usually 1-faced and concave, 1 side commonly 2-faced and divided by a

transverse angle or 1-faced and arched, with a small (± 0.6 mm wide) whitish caruncle at tip; on old, dried seeds, caruncle hollow. Mid-April–early June.

Native. A bulb-bearing, herbaceous perennial of chaparral and southern oak woodland, common in certain years and hardly seen in others. White globe lily has elegant, nodding white flowers, which differ markedly from the other local species of *Calochortus*, which instead have erect, open, bell-shaped flowers in a variety of colors.

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