

Caulanthus S. Watson JEWELFLOWER, WILD-CABBAGE

Caulanthus heterophyllus (Nutt.) Payson, SLENDER-POD JEWELFLOWER. Annual, taprooted, typically 1-stemmed at base, often with several flowering branches from upper nodes, ± erect, in range 30–60 cm tall; shoot with only cauline leaves, short-hairy, hairs unbranched, mostly ascending, < 0.8 mm long. **Stems:** cylindric, lacking decurrent ridges, green, somewhat glaucous. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile and clasping, without stipules; blade of lower cauline leaves narrowly oblong or narrowly oblanceolate and lobed or coarsely dentate grading to lanceolate-linear or linear and shallowly lobed or dentate to entire above, 35–90 × 3–15 mm, lobes mostly subopposite, teeth rounded, only midrib conspicuous and raised lower surface, dull; blade of the uppermost cauline leaves long-tapered at tip and with basal lobes (auricles), the auricles to 4 mm long. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, many-flowered, open flowers not overtopping buds, widely spaced along axis after anthesis, lacking bracts; bract subtending peduncle = the uppermost cauline leaf; peduncle 25–35 mm long, inflorescence axis ± glabrous; pedicel at anthesis spreading and 3.5–4.5 mm long increasing to 6 mm long and strongly reflexed in fruit, glabrous or with scattered hairs aging glabrescent. **Flower:** bisexual, ± radial, in range 8–9 mm across, yellowish and purplish; **sepals** 4, erect, ± monomorphic, lanceolate, 6.5–8.5 × 2 mm, in range green and yellowish green and sometimes before anthesis blushed purplish above midpoint, narrowly membranous on margins, after anthesis outer 2 sepals aging somewhat pouchlike at base; **petals** 4, clawed, linear to narrowly oblong or narrowly oblanceolate, 11–13.5 × 1.3–2 mm; claw ± indistinct from limb, to midpoint, 1-veined with membranous margins; limb spreading, margin wavy, in range yellowish cream-colored, conspicuously pinnately veined with purple and green veins; **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic with outer 2 short and inner 4 slightly longer, inserted; filaments 3.5–4 mm long, whitish, tapered from base; anthers basifixed, dithecal, erect, 2.2–2.6 mm long, greenish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen cream; **nectary** irregular disclike, positioned outside and inside of filament bases, low and inconspicuous, green; **pistil** 1, 3.5 mm long, glabrous; ovary superior, straight, valves green or aging purple, veins obscure, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 row of ovules, oval in ×-section; style very short, increasing in fruit; stigma capitate with depressed center. **Fruit:** siliqua (silique), dehiscent by 2 valves, linear, 45–65 mm long, valve 1-veined; beak (style) 2.5 mm long. **Seed:** flat and winglike, obovate, ca. 1 mm long, brown with paler margin; not mucilaginous when wet. Mid-March–late-April.

Native. Annual seldom collected on burns of chaparral, so little is known about this plant in range. Our populations of *Caulanthus heterophyllus* appears to be somewhat intermediate between two formerly recognized varieties, but distributions of the varieties suggest that ours would be var. *heterophyllus*.

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