

*Clematis* L. VIRGIN'S BOWER

*Clematis lasiantha* Nutt., PIPESTEM, CHAPARRAL CLEMATIS. Perennial woody climber (liana), scrambling over shrubs and short trees often partially covering host canopy, commonly with unexpanded axillary shoots; andromonoecious; shoots densely silky pubescent and silvery at growing tips becoming tomentose and greenish. **Stems:** ridged, young stems typically 6-ridged aging cylindrical, ca. 2.5 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, on new growth 12-ridged below ca. node 6, internodes 12–125 mm long, expanded above and below nodes, woody stems strong and flexible, grayish brown with fibrous, stringy bark. **Leaves:** opposite, mostly 3-foliolate or occasionally 5-foliolate with subdivision of terminal leaflet, petiolate with pair connected by low ledges across node, without stipules; petiole  $\pm$  hemi-cylindric but flared and shallowly channeled at base, 15–38 mm long, 3–4.5 mm wide at base,  $\pm$  0.5 mm wide at midpoint, green but becoming purplish red, pubescent, spreading widely from stem and then curved upward; blade rachis (if 5-foliolate) 17–23 mm long, bent outward at junction with petiole and curved upward to terminal leaflets; petiolules shallowly channeled, 1–8 mm long (lateral leaflets) and 3–15 mm long (terminal leaflet); blades of leaflets ovate to broadly ovate in outline, 22–50  $\times$  14–31 mm (lateral leaflet) and 30–60  $\times$  18–48 mm (terminal leaflet), 3-lobed or unlobed, subcordate, rounded, or truncate at base, crenate on margins and lobe margins with 0–3 teeth on edge with an equal number on central lobe and an unequal number per edge or absent on leading side of lateral lobes, obtuse to rounded or broadly acute at tip, having 3–5 veins diverging within 0.5–1.5 mm of base and with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface glabrous or strigose, lower surface loosely silky. **Inflorescence:** leafy cyme, axillary, loosely 1-flowered or 3(5)-flowered, 75–140 mm long, flowers staminate and bisexual on the same plant, bracteate, pubescent to tomentose; peduncle 10–30 mm long, light green becoming purplish red; bracts subtending pedicel 2, opposite, short-petiolate (1–6 mm long), elliptic to ovate, 7–22  $\times$  3.5–19 mm, sometimes 3-lobed, occasionally with a flower arising from axil; rachis present or absent, 15–25 mm long; pedicel 40–70 mm long, light green. **Flowers:** radial, rotate to bowl-shaped, 34–47 mm across; receptacle dome-shaped, ca. 3  $\times$  2.7 mm, densely hirsute-pilose. **Staminate flower:** **sepals** 4, spreading widely, elliptic to narrowly ovate, 20–23  $\times$  6–8.3 mm, pale yellow or creamy white, eventually slightly recurved, broadly tapered at base, rounded to slightly indented (retuse) at tip, 3–5-veined at base with veins thick and raised on villous to woolly lower (outer) surface, villous on upper surface; **petals** absent; **stamens** 84–107, helically alternate, free; filaments 3.2–14  $\times$  ca. 0.8 mm, light yellow to light yellowish green, glabrous or sometimes pilose at base (innermost stamens); anthers basifixed, dithecal, 2.2–3  $\times$  1–1.3 mm, with connective extending to within 0.3–0.5 mm of anther tip, longitudinally and sideways dehiscent; pollen pale yellow, sticky; **pistils** absent or diminutive on tip of domed receptacle. **Bisexual flower:** **sepals** 4, spreading widely, elliptic to narrowly ovate, 20–23  $\times$  6–8.3 mm, pale yellow or creamy white, eventually slightly recurved, broadly tapered at base, rounded to slightly indented (retuse) at tip, 3–5-veined at base with veins thick and raised on villous to woolly lower (outer) surface, villous on upper face; **petals** absent; **stamens** 84–107, helically alternate, free; filaments 3.2–14  $\times$  ca. 0.8 mm, light yellow to light yellowish green, glabrous or sometimes pilose at base (innermost stamens); anthers

basifixed, dithecal,  $2.2-3 \times 1-1.3$  mm, with connective extending to within 0.3–0.5 mm of anther tip, longitudinally and sideways dehiscent; pollen pale yellow, sticky; **pistils** (75–)100–120, helically alternate, free, 3.5–6.3 mm long; ovaries superior, barrel-shaped,  $0.7-1 \times 0.5$  mm, green, pilose, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style 2.5–5.3 mm long, light green, pilose; stigma lateral approaching tip of style, 0.4–0.7 mm long, light green, glabrous, minutely papillate. **Fruits:** achenes, many, helically arranged, formed in a head, with conspicuous and persistent feathery beaks (styles); fruit body compressed-ovoid,  $4.5-5 \times 2-2.4$  mm, orangey brown to brown, commonly with a medial ridge on flat faces, pubescent with appressed to ascending hairs become pilose approaching top; beak slender and curved, 32–40 mm long, delicate, with long, spreading hairs (plumose). Late January–early May.

Native. Woody perennial climber occurring mostly in tall chaparral throughout the range growing over canopies of shrubs and small trees, where the leaves and flowers are exposed to direct sunlight. *Clematis lasiantha* begins vegetative growth during wintertime and starts to flower flowering in early spring when *Ceanothus oliganthus* and *C. spinosus* are also starting to flower. This species is widely described as dioecious, but in range the flowers are either staminate or bisexual and occur on the same plant, as in the other local species, but here staminate flowers are most abundant.

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