

Clematis L. VIRGIN'S BOWER

Clematis ligusticifolia Nutt., WESTERN VIRGIN'S BOWER, OLD MAN'S BEARD, YERBA DE CHIVA. Perennial woody vine (liana), scrambling over shrubs and trees and having pendent shoots with long internodes; andromonoecious; shoots pubescent. **Stems:** ridged, young stems typically 6-angled aging cylindrical, internodes mostly 100–200 mm long, striped, short-villous. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, odd-1-pinnately compound to 2-compound with 2–4(–7) paired primary leaflets sometimes divided to form secondary leaflets, petiolate and connected to form avknobby node, without stipules; petiole angular, 25–60 mm long, swollen at base; rachis < petiole; petiolules to 30 mm long, rachis and petiolules sometimes wrapping around other plants for support; blade 80–250 × 10–65 mm long; blades of leaflets lanceolate to ovate or palmately 3-lobed, 3–9 × 1–7 mm, truncate to rounded or subcordate at base, irregularly toothed on margins, acute at tip, 3-veined at base, pubescent. **Inflorescence:** panicle of dichasial cymes (thyrses), terminal or axillary, 3–many-flowered, flowers bisexual and staminate, bracteate, conspicuously pubescent; bract subtending branch leaflike, 3-foliolate reduced to 1-foliolate and smaller than leaflets; bractlet subtending pedicel and branchlet linear or awl-shaped, < 5 mm long, hairy; pedicel ascending to erect, 4–15 mm long increasing in fruit. **Staminate flower:** radial, 16–20 mm across, sweetly fragrant; receptacle somewhat spheric; **perianth** of 3–5 petal-like sepals (if only 3, 1 wider and 2-lobed), spreading, oblanceolate, 6–9(–11) × 2.5–4 mm, white, densely pubescent; **stamens** typically > 30, free, helically arranged; filaments initially erect, straight and ± hemi-cylindric, 5–7.5(–9) mm long, green aging white, becoming spreading and decumbent or reflexed when senescing outer layer to inner layer; anthers dithecal with sacs on 2 sides of filament tip, ± 1.5 mm long, white, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistils** absent or vestigial. **Bisexual flower:** radial, 16–20 mm across, sweetly fragrant; receptacle somewhat spheric; **perianth** of 3–5 petal-like sepals (if only 3, 1 wider and 2-lobed), spreading, oblanceolate, 6–9(–11) × 2.5–4 mm, white, densely pubescent; **stamens** typically > 30, free, helically arranged; filaments initially erect, straight and ± hemi-cylindric, 5–7.5(–9) mm long, green aging white, becoming spreading and decumbent or reflexed when senescing outer layer to inner layer; anthers dithecal with sacs on 2 sides of filament tip, ± 1.5 mm long, white, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistils** 35–65, free on a spheric receptacle; ovaries superior, minute, whitish, covered with colorless, soft, appressed hairs, each 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style concealed by long silky hairs. **Fruits:** achenes, formed in a head, with conspicuous and persistent plumose beaks (= styles); fruit body obovoid-lenticular, ca. 2.5 mm long, brown, hairy; beak ca. 40 mm long, rose-purple when immature drying buff. Mid-June–mid-September.

Native. Perennial woody climber mostly known from the coastal canyons of SMM. *Clematis ligusticifolia* is a summer-flowering species that occurs in relatively sparse populations; it typically does not grow with *C. lasiantha*, which in range is more common and only flowers during winter and spring months. Although the two species have the potential to hybridize, in range they do not therefore have the opportunity to do so.

Clematis ligusticifolia has mostly bisexual flowers, but staminate flowers also can be found on a given plant.

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