

Collinsia Nutt. CHINESE HOUSES

Collinsia parryi A. Gray, PARRY'S CHINESE HOUSES. Annual, taprooted, slender-stemmed, 1-stemmed at base with pairs of lateral branches typically arising from each node, entire canopy = inflorescence, erect, 12–40+ cm tall; shoots minutely strigose with downward-pointing hairs, not glandular-hairy. **Stems:** cylindric, to 1.5 mm diameter, crimson or reddish purple. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate with pair connected as 2 low ledges across node, without stipules; petiole channeled, of lower leaves \pm = blade, of upper cauline leaves 1.5–5 mm long; blade of lower leaves ovate to oval, to 15 \times 10 mm, often reddish or purplish, serrate or crenate on margins, rounded at tip, pinnately veined with midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface; blade of cauline leaves grading into bracts, lanceolate to oblong, to 20 \times 6 mm, green or reddish, entire to minutely toothed on margins, pinnately veined with midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** leafy raceme or panicle of racemes, terminal, open, the branches often opposite decussate with lower ones spreading, many-flowered with 1–4 flowers per node, bracteate, puberulent; peduncle stemlike, crimson; bracts 2 or 4 per node, leaflike reduced upward (minute–10 mm long); axis internodes 10–30 mm long; pedicel 4–15 mm long, minutely strigose with downward-pointing hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 4–4.5 \times 5.5 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, slightly bilateral, 3.5–5 mm long increasing in fruit, \pm glistening at base with bulging epidermal cells, puberulent with downward-pointed hairs; tube bell-shaped, green, paler or \pm translucent beneath sinuses; lobes linear to broadly lanceolate with upper 2 lobes wider, \pm 2 \times 0.7–1.1 mm, green but aging dark purple at tip after corolla abscises, lobes ciliate on margins, acute to blunt at tip, 1-veined; **corolla** 2-lipped, 5-lobed, (4–)7–9.5 mm long; tube 1.2–1.8 mm long, whitish, \pm flared at base, somewhat compressed side-to-side; throat low-saclike and lavender on upper side, whitish on lower side, the sac inconspicuously ribbed, with scattered hairs inside; upper lip reflexed, 2-lobed, broadly wedge-shaped, 3.8–4.5 \times 3–3.5 mm, with a slightly raised palate, each lobe rounded, light violet-purple, indistinctly toothed or crenate, the palate white with small, deep purple spots (maculate); lower lip with 2 spreading lobes and a shorter, keel-like central lobe, lateral lobes obovate, 4–5 mm long, whitish near throat to violet at tip, central lobe enclosing stamens and style, 3.5–4 mm long, light lavender with veiny, purplish keel, fused above midpoint to lateral lobes by invaginated, glandular ridges; **stamens** 4 fertile + 1 staminode, 2 fused to corolla at base of corolla sac on upper side of throat, 2 fused slightly higher on lower side of throat, with anthers displayed at same level within keel; filaments 3.8–5 mm long, whitish to pale lavender, villous below midpoint, especially hairy on upper stamens; anthers divergent, dorsifixed, dithecal, \pm horseshoe-shaped, reddish, longitudinally dehiscent and dehiscing across tip; pollen yellow; staminode = fingerlike gland attached to base of corolla tube; **pistil** 1, 5.5–6.5 mm long; ovary superior, spheric, \pm 1 mm, 2-chambered, each chamber with 5 or 6 ovules; style 4.5 mm long, white, constricted at tip below stigma; stigma capitate, small. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, 2(weakly 4)-valved, to 12-seeded, ovoid-ellipsoid, 4–5 \times 3–3.5 mm, light brown to pale straw-colored with purplish tip, slightly compressed \perp septum; calyx enclosing fruit, purplish in developing fruit aging brown, with 5 conspicuous, low ridges alternating with lesser ones on expanded tube, the lobes erect, to 4 mm long. **Seed:** oblong, ovoid, or \pm like grains of sand, 1.5–1.8 \times 1.1–1.5 mm,

brownish green, deeply sunken on side of hilum, conspicuously and shallowly netlike.
Late March–early May.

Native. Annual seldom observed in range at several remote localities in SMM. *Collinsia parryi* has much smaller leaves and flowers than the common species of Chinese houses.
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