

Lomatium Raf. DESERT PARSLEY

Lomatium utriculatum (Torrey & A. Gray) J. M. Coult. & Rose, BLADDER PARSNIP. Perennial herb, taprooted, rosetted with spreading to ascending leaves, 1-stemmed at base, ascending to erect, 10–30(–50) cm tall; shoots with finely dissected basal leaves and cauline leaves, with cauline leaves having greatly expanded, sheathing petioles, in range puberulent, sometimes weakly fragrant as mild celery (*Apium*); taproot deep-seated, white-fleshed. **Stems:** angular, typically < 4 mm diameter, at shoot base uniformly deep purplish red grading to green with many rose-purple ridges; internodes solid but sometimes aging hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, 3-pinnately dissected with primary divisions 3-parted and secondary and tertiary parts often with paired pinnate divisions, petiolate, without stipules; petiole sheathing and open at base, of basal leaves strap-shaped, to 50 × 7 mm, whitish, of cauline leaves broadly ovate and hemispheric-cupped, 15–20 mm long and wide, 2-lobed or not at tip, with many parallel veins (often 11 or 13) and having membranous margins, glabrous; blade broadly ovate to obovate, 50–160 mm long, rachis narrowly channeled and on lower side ridged and angled; ultimate segments ascending, narrowly oblong to oblanceolate, 3–15(–25) × 0.8–1.2 mm, green, with erect short white hairs. **Inflorescence:** compound umbel, terminal, flat-topped, 25–50 mm across, of 5–20 umbellets, many-flowered, bracteate; bract subtending peduncle leaflike; peduncle many-ridged, 100–180 mm long, green, puberulent; **involucre** of bract subtending primary rays absent or only 1 leaflike bract, bracts 2-pinnately dissected, < 50 mm long, winged petiole oblong, to 5 mm wide; primary rays spreading to ascending, markedly unequal, 7–45 mm long, ridged and puberulent like peduncle but thinner; bractlets subtending pedicels of umbellets on outer half of peripheral umbellets 5–8, of inner half of peripheral umbellets 3–4 or 0, of the innermost umbellets fewer or 0, fused along most of length to free, of outer umbellets the bractlets fan-shaped and commonly 3-toothed at tip, 5–6.5 mm long, of the innermost umbellets the bractlets lanceolate to fan-shaped, 2–5 mm long and typically long-tapered to short-pointed at tip, aging white-scarious on margins, pinnately veined, reddish purple tinged along veins and on teeth; pedicel spreading to ascending, 1–3.5 mm long, sparsely puberulent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 2 mm across; **sepals** 5, erect, unequal, broadly based acuminate, < 0.5 mm long, green, persistent; **petals** 5, strongly incurved so tip touching base, oblanceolate with slender tip, 1.5 mm long, bright yellow, glabrous; **stamens** 5, free; filaments initially strongly recurved, ± 2 mm long, yellow; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.6–0.8 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, indistinctly 2-lobed with diminutive platform (stylopodium) on top, compressed bell-shaped, at anthesis ca. 1 mm long, green, truncate with white hairs at tip, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 2, free, spreading and often coiled under, 1.5 mm long. **Fruit:** schizocarp, of 2 dry, 1-seeded halves (mericarps), before splitting broadly elliptic or round to obovate in outline, 8–12(–22) × 8 mm, with bulging seed chambers, very compressed front-to-back, often cordate at base, with purple-winged margins; outer face centrally with 3 ribs and scattered hairs, inner face centrally with curved veins but without pronounced ribbing. Late January–early April.

Native. Herbaceous perennial growing on grassy slopes and flats on the northern slope of SMM as well as in SH, where it may be found with other interesting perennial natives,

especially *Fritillaria biflora*. *Lomatium utriculatum* is a yellow-flowered umbel of early spring, easy to recognize by having conspicuous petiolar sheaths and finely dissected blades. Our populations are puberulent and have fan-shaped bractlets with serrate tips, whereas the species is generally described as having entire bractlets.

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