

Mimulus L. MONKEYFLOWER

Mimulus brevipes Benth., WIDE-THROATED YELLOW MONKEYFLOWER. Annual, taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, mostly open with spreading pairs of lateral branches, erect to ascending, 5–60(–90) cm tall; shoots pubescent with stalked glandular hairs of various lengths (to 0.8 mm long) having yellowish heads, somewhat sticky when fresh. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 5 mm diameter, light green often aging dark purplish red on lower stem, internodes on larger plants often 55–100 mm long. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile often with pairs \pm fused across node, without stipules; petiole winged, to 8 mm long; blade lanceolate to ovate or obovate, 13–90 \times 2.3–35 mm, lower leaves often aging dark purple-red, tapered to narrowly tapered at base, bluntly short-serrate on margins (entire on the smallest leaves), narrowly rounded at tip, pinnately veined and commonly 5-veined at base with midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, upper surface sparsely glandular-hairy, lower surface moderately glandular-hairy. **Inflorescence:** leafy raceme or panicle with lateral racemes, terminal, open, with flowers appearing axillary in pairs and pairs separated by long internodes, several–many-flowered, bracteate, stalked glandular-hairy on all green surfaces; bractlet subtending pedicel sessile and leaflike, reduced upward; pedicel 3–4.5 mm long, light green, with stalked glandular hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 16–35 mm across, 14–38 mm tall; **calyx** 5-lobed, 15–17.5 mm long increasing to 30 mm long and persistent in fruit, villous and coarsely glandular-hairy, internally finely glandular-hairy; tube pleated with 5 folds, 6.5–7.2 mm long on lower side, 10.5–11.5 mm long on upper side, oblique at orifice, green but whitish in grooves; lobes acute to lanceolate-acute, upper lobe 5–7.5 mm long; **corolla** 2-lipped, 5-lobed, bright yellow; tube cylindrical, 3–6 \times 1.5–2.2 mm, whitish; throat 12–22 mm long, bright yellow with reddish orange dots, expanding from base to 7–17 mm wide at orifice, pleated below central lobe of lower lip with 2 appressed ridges in lower part of throat and diverging toward each sinus between central lobe and lateral lobe, floor of throat with mostly weakly club-shaped hairs (clavate) and some well-developed clavate hairs, densely pubescent on ridges with well-developed clavate hairs, the clavate hairs light yellowish except reddish orange when on a reddish orange dot; upper lip 2-lobed, 14–32 mm wide, lobes spreading, slightly asymmetrically oblong, 6–17 \times 9–17 mm, slightly notched; lower lip 3-lobed, 14–32 mm wide, lobes spreading, rounded oblong, 6–14 \times 6–14 mm (lateral lobes) and 5–10 \times 5.5–10 mm (central lobe); **stamens** 4, fused to base of corolla throat and \pm appressed to ceiling of throat; filaments of 2 different lengths, slightly arched, 10–11 mm long (short stamens) and 13–16 mm long (long stamens), light greenish yellow, minutely stalked-glandular at base; anthers included, basifixed, dithecal, the sacs widely spreading (explanate) fused by their connectives, 1.7–2 mm long, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, narrowly ovoid, 3.3–5.5 \times 1.6–1.9 mm, green, glabrous, 1-chambered with numerous ovules on 2 intrusive (parietal) placentae; style positioned along ceiling of corolla throat, 14–19 mm long, light greenish yellow, cylindrical most of length but flattened below stigma lobes, minutely stalked glandular-hairy; stigma 2-lobed, the lobes unequal, flat, semi-elliptic to broadly ovate or semicircular, papillate hairy on inner surface, sensitive to touch and closing on pollen load. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded, narrowly ovoid, 9–12 \times 3.5–4.5 mm, brown, shallowly indented along septum, acuminate at tip,

minutely papillate. **Seed:** ellipsoid, 0.5–0.6 × 0.3 mm, golden brown, pointed at both ends, with convex cells. Mid-March–mid-June.

Native. Annual occurring mostly in openings of chaparral as local patches, abundant on burns and otherwise only in years with abundant rainfall, where it tends to come up at the same localities year after year. *Mimulus brevipes* is covered with stalked glandular hairs, and is slightly sticky when fresh due to the glandular substances produced in the yellowish heads; the plant becomes very sticky when pressed or kept in a plastic bag. Its bright yellow flowers tend to be larger than those of *M. guttatus*, which grows in wetter microhabitats.

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