

Solanum L. NIGHTSHADE

Solanum douglasii Dunal, WHITE NIGHTSHADE. Subshrub or perennial herb, often woody at base, branched throughout, in range < 160 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, villous-strigose with unbranched hairs (not stellate), sparsely glandular-hairy especially on new growth, not sticky, not ill-smelling. **Stems:** ridged aging cylindrical, the ridges typically 2 per internode descending ridges of each leaf, green, with spreading hairs, ridges with small teeth. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole 2–30+ mm long, with ridged edges or winged grading into blade; blade ovate to broadly lanceolate or ovate-triangular, 7–100 × 3–70 mm, symmetric or asymmetric and rounded or truncate to broadly tapered or long-tapered at base, entire or with several broad teeth on margins, acute to acuminate at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, villous-strigose, upper surface sometimes sparsely pubescent. **Inflorescence:** cyme, typically appearing ± opposite a leaf, < 10-flowered, somewhat 1-sided or ± umbel-like with congested internodes at end of peduncle, flowers mostly erect to spreading, lacking bracts, strigose and sparsely short-glandular; peduncle 15–35 mm long; pedicel typically 5–9 mm long at anthesis and in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 15–20 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, ± 2 mm × 3 mm; tube to about midpoint, green or purple, becoming membranous between lobes, without conspicuous veins, short-strigose; lobes at anthesis spreading, deltate, ± equal, 0.5–1 mm long, becoming slightly broader and spreading with enlarging fruit, persistent; **corolla** 5-lobed, cymbal-shaped (rotate) and star-shaped, white to light purple; tube absent; throat broadly flaring, 4 mm long, reinforced with 5 radiating spokes, the spokes narrowly triangular, greenish yellow or green, often shiny and sometimes outlined with purple; lobes spreading but becoming ± reflexed, narrowly triangular, 4.5–9 mm long, white to light purple, both surfaces minutely papillate and glistening-glandular, lower surface short-pubescent; **stamens** 5, fused to base of corolla, alternate with corolla lobes; filaments erect, 0.7–1.5 mm long, green, tomentose to midpoint; anthers erect, basifixed, dithecal, linear, 2.5–4.3 mm long, touching, bright yellow on outer side and light yellow on inner side, dehiscent by a terminal pore on inward-facing side of each anther sac and eventually longitudinally; pollen creamy white to pale yellow; **pistil** 1, 7–8 mm long; ovary superior, spheric, ± 1 mm, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules; style exerted 2–2.5 mm beyond anthers, 6–7 mm long, greenish, with colorless glandular hairs below midpoint; stigma small, narrowly capitate. **Fruit:** berry, 15–55-seeded, spheric, 6.5–9 mm, blackish purple; skin leathery and persistent; pulp greenish; calyx star-shaped, to 4 mm across, green drying brown, calyx lobes 3-nerved. **Seed:** discuslike and circular in outline, 1.2–1.5 mm diameter, brownish tan, glabrous. January–December.

Native. Perennial encountered commonly throughout the range, typically in somewhat disturbed habitats, from just behind beaches to canyon bottoms. *Solanum douglasii* tends to be hairy, and within a population its flowers may be white to light purple with a shiny green or greenish yellow spot (spoke) at the base of each lobe. Its spheric berries are nearly black. There are flowering records of this species during every month, which indicates that it blooms whenever growth is stimulated by adequate moisture.

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