

*Vicia* L. VETCH

*Vicia americana* Willd. var. *americana*, AMERICAN VETCH. Perennial herbaceous vine, with tendrils, taprooted, sprawling and climbing over other plants; shoots sparsely pubescent to hairy; roots nodulated. **Stems:** conspicuously ridged and winged, to 2.5 mm diameter, 4-angled and  $\pm$  rhombic in  $\times$ -section with 2 wings, green, flexible. **Leaves:** helically alternate, 1-pinnately compound with leaf tip modified as an unbranched or 3-branched tendril, each tendrilar branch often branched, leaflets 8–12(–16) but typically not strictly in pairs, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to winged ridges of stem, asymmetric with main vein arching upward into an ascending, long and narrow lobe, the ascending lobe narrowly triangular, 4–9  $\times$  1–3.5 mm, green, entire or to 7-toothed (large stipules), the basal portion 2–8  $\times$  4–8 mm, deeply 3–7-toothed; petiole channeled, 5–9 mm long, lacking pulvinus; rachis typically < 60 mm long (excluding tendril), sparsely puberulent; petiolules < 1 mm long, hairy; blades of leaflet elliptic to oblong, 11–36  $\times$  4–12.5 mm, dull, tapered to rounded at base, entire or sometimes  $\pm$  short-dentate on margins especially approaching tip, rounded with short point to short-acuminate at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface and parallel lateral veins, sparsely fine straight-hairy to pubescent becoming glabrate. **Inflorescence:** raceme, axillary, at anthesis < leaf, 3–10-flowered,  $\pm$  loosely clustered, helically arranged or appearing in pairs, lacking bracts; peduncle ridged or angled, in range 53–120 mm long, reddish at base, pubescent especially in lower portion; pedicel to 2.5 mm, with decurrent base and circular groove above base where abscission occurs. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, pealike (papilionaceous), ca. 8 mm across, 15–25 mm long; **calyx** 5-lobed; tube bell-shaped with lower side straighter, 4.5–6 mm long, 10-veined, with prominent vein to each lobe, pubescent mostly along veins; lobes unequal, acuminate, 2–3.5 mm long (lower lobes) and 1.1–1.7 mm long (upper lobes), green; **petals** 5; banner spreading to somewhat recurved, lacking claw, obovate, 16.5–21  $\times$  7–12 mm, light violet with whitish base and darker violet veins, having basal half strongly curved around bases of other petals; wings 2, narrowly clawed, claw  $\pm$  8.5 mm long, white, limb 14.5–18.5 mm long, white to very pale violet, darker violet on margins, locked with but not fused to keel, backward pointed lobe 2–3 mm long; keel of 2 partially fused petals, claw 9–10 mm long, mostly whitish, limb 12.5–15 mm long, rounded and  $\pm$  5 mm wide at rounded tip, violet on margins, with a pocket on each side of tip, the pockets surrounding anthers, elliptic,  $\pm$  2 mm long, convex on outer surface, strong violet or 2-colored with strong violet patch approaching tip, tannish yellow toward the base; **stamens** 10, diadelphous (9 filaments fused and 1 free); filament sheet 13–16 mm long, free portion 2–4 mm, free filament 13–14 mm long, white; anthers basifixed, dithecal,  $\pm$  0.5 mm long, greenish yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow to creamy white; **pistil** 1, stalked (stipe), the stipe 3.5–4.5 mm long and whitish, receptacle at base of stalk nectar-producing, nectar copious within filament sheet; ovary superior, fusiform, 7–8 mm long, 1-chambered with ca. 12 ovules attached to upper side; style bent upward  $\pm$  at right angle, white, with a conspicuous terminal tuft of whitish hairs; stigma capitate or conic, pale yellowish green, papillate. **Fruit:** pod (legume), on plant indehiscent or tardily dehiscent by 2 twisted valves, to 7-seeded, compressed-fusiform or compressed-oblong, in range 25–40  $\times$  5–6 mm, bulging and inflated by seeds, valves tan with netlike venation and

glabrate (hairy). **Seed:** subspheric, ca.  $4 \times 3.5 \times 3.2$  mm, dull, dark brown with black spots; hilum oblong, 3 mm long. Early February–mid-May.

Native. Perennial vine occasionally and unexpectedly encountered on edges of woodlands in SMM and SH, where it may be growing near *Lathyrus vestitus* and with which it may be confused in vegetative condition. Our materials of *Vicia americana* seem to fit var. *americana*, but at least the population in Charmlee Wilderness Park has exceptionally long peduncles and comparatively long calyx lobes. This species of vetch has a truly remarkable tuft of hairs surrounding the stigma.

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