

Viola L. VIOLET

Viola pedunculata Torrey & A. Gray, JOHNNY JUMP-UP, WILD PANSY. Perennial herb, colonial, rhizomatous, several-stemmed at base, prostrate and decumbent to ascending, typically 6–30 cm tall; shoots minutely puberulent to glabrescent; rhizomes deep, short. **Stems:** 2-ridged on each internode, to 2.5 mm diameter, with ridges descending from margins of each leaf, green turning reddish or purplish, flexible. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, long-petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, fused to base of petiole, asymmetric and conspicuously unequal, the larger sickle-shaped lanceolate, 5–12 mm long, entire to fringed or jagged on margin with several narrow teeth, green, the smaller < 1/2 as long, fringed on margin, green but drying pale; petiole ± hemi-cylindric at base to cylindric above with narrow photosynthetic wings, 20–50(–65) mm long, often reddish; blade deltate-ovate to heart-shaped, in range 15–40 × 12–30 mm, thin, cordate to truncate at base, low-crenate on margins with a flesh-colored gland on each tooth at approaching base, obtuse at tip, principal veins arising at base sunken on upper surface and somewhat raised on lower surface, dull, sparsely puberulent. **Inflorescence:** solitary, axillary, on long peduncle (pedicel), bracteate; bract at base of peduncle larger than either stipule, narrowly oblong to narrowly oblanceolate, 10–17 mm long, green, toothed, pinnately veined; peduncle ascending to erect, 50–200+ mm long, distinctly 4-sided and 4-ridged, glabrescent, strongly hooked at tip, with 2 bractlets above midpoint, the bractlets appressed, similar but shorter and narrower than bract, upward-pointing, with knobby bases having whitish fringe. **Flower:** bisexual, ± bilateral, 12–14 mm across; **sepals** 5, subequal with a gap between the lowest sepals where lower petal protrudes, oblong-lanceolate, 7–10 × 1.5–2.5 mm, central upper sepal slightly wider, green turning purplish, membranous and ciliate on margins, with short, thickened basal lobe on each extending below attachment point, persistent; **petals** 5, heteromorphic; upper 2 petals obovate, ca. 13 × 7.5 mm, outer surface reddish brown with yellow streaks and purplish at base, internally yellow; lateral 2 petals asymmetrically obovate, ca. 13 × 8 mm, yellow to golden yellow, outer surface sometimes with a purple streak and purplish at base with purple extending slightly along veins toward tip, internally with 2 linear-lanceolate, deep purple marks and 2 shorter markings near base and a patch of yellow papillate hairs near base; lower petal spurred, obovate when flattened, ca. 15 × 9.5 mm, externally yellow to golden yellow with reddish brown streaks or spots at tip, internally with ± 11 linear-lanceolate to linear-oblanceolate, deep purple marks below midpoint, the spur ± 1.5 mm long, deep purple; **stamens** 5, free, appressed to ovary, dimorphic with 3 short stamens < 3 mm long and 2 longer stamens on lower side of flower ± 4 mm long with nectar-bearing pouch, with appendage above each anther sac; filaments short, ridged; anthers basifixed, dithecal, oval and flattened, 2 × 1.2–1.4 mm, tannish, with some purplish villous hairs at tip and below appendage; appendage bractlike, broad and triangular, ± 1.5 mm long, orange; with nectary on back of 1 anther sac; **nectary** projecting into pouch of lower petal, ± kidney-shaped, ± 1 mm long, maroon; **pistil** 1, < 4.5 mm long; ovary superior, deeply 3-lobed, 1.5–2.2 mm long, 1-chambered with many ovules; style club-shaped, ± 1.5 mm long, greenish; stigma projecting slightly above staminal appendage encircling style, capitate, grooved on tip, with hairs around top. **Fruit:** capsule, explosively dehiscent, to 18-seeded, conspicuously 3-lobed, 5–11 × 8 mm, glabrous, somewhat glaucous. **Seed:** with aril, ovoid, ca. 3 × 1.5

mm, brown or straw-colored and mottled with brown, lustrous with irregular surface; aril covering hilum, white, oil-rich. Mid-January–late May.

Native. Perennial herb occasionally observed during late winter and springtime in native or disturbed grassland and coastal sage scrub throughout the range. *Viola pedunculata* is easily recognized in leaf and flower, especially by observing a spur of the lower petal, but the flower parts have many unusual forms and pigmentation not easy to describe. The fruit is explosively dehiscent, and the seeds are dispersed by ants, which are rewarded with the oily aril.

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