

Acmispon americanus (Nutt.) Rydb. var. *americanus*, SPANISH CLOVER. Annual, taprooted, several-stemmed at base from a \pm hemispheric swelling, with slender lateral branches diverging at acute angles from each node by having a callus at axil on upper side, decumbent or ascending through supporting vegetation, 5–60 cm tall; shoots with widely spaced cauline leaves, pilose to villous or becoming glabrescent; roots nodulated. **Stems:** \pm cylindrical, 0.7–2 mm diameter, tough, green becoming reddish orange at base or purplish red on exposed sides, internodes mostly 40–55 mm long. **Leaves:** helically alternate, pinnately 3-foliolate with subopposite lateral leaflets, short-petiolate without pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, at petiole base, glandlike and minute, dark reddish, conic to transversely elongate; petiole 0.5–1.5 mm long; rachis hemi-cylindric or channeled, < 5 mm long, spreading pubescent; petiolules of lateral leaflets = pulvinus 0.5–0.8 mm long, pale green becoming pinkish, spreading pubescent; blades of leaflets elliptic to broadly lanceolate, 5–27 \times 2–16 mm, asymmetric and oblique at base (lateral leaflets) and rounded to tapered and sometimes oblique at base (terminal leaflet), entire, acute and red-glandular at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly sunken on upper surface and principal veins raised on lower surface, dull blue-green to greenish, pilose to villous. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, axillary at every third node, bracteate; peduncle straight-ascending, 7–25 mm long increasing slightly in fruit, green to purplish red, spreading pubescent or becoming glabrescent, with callus at axil on upper side; bract at top of peduncle leafletlike, 1-foliolate, petiole = pulvinus, with a pair of reddish glandular stipules at base of petiole, blade lanceolate to ovate, at anthesis 5–12 \times 2.5–5.5 mm, persistent; bractlet \pm opposite bract, generally reduced to 3 glandular teeth (lateral 2 glands = stipules, central gland = bractlet); pedicel curved and orienting flower horizontally, at anthesis ca. 1 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, pealike (papilionaceous), 4–5 mm across; **nectary chamber** around nectar-producing receptacle beneath ovary; **calyx** 5-lobed, 5–6 mm long, with long and short spreading hairs; tube funnel-shaped, 1.6–1.8 mm long, 1.7–1.8 mm wide at orifice; lobes narrowly triangular, 2.6–4.5 \times 0.5 mm, with upper 2 lobes slightly > other lobes; **petals** 5, clawed, white, pink, and yellow; banner 5.2–6.5 \times 4.5–5.5 mm, claw 0.5–0.8 mm long, white, expanding abruptly into limb, limb folded down and covering wings and keel before anthesis, at anthesis bent upward and spreading at margins, \pm circular or broadly obovate, white, with up to 16 purplish red veins at base becoming forked above, aging pinkish between veins, rounded at tip; wings 2, 5.4–5.7 \times 2 mm, claw 1.2–1.4 mm long, whitish, limb narrowly obovate, whitish to light greenish yellow with yellow on outer margin and purplish red veins, with a saclike, inward protrusion near base coupled to a matching protrusion on keel; keel of 2 petals fused most of limb length on lower margins to tip, 5–6 mm long, claws 1.2–1.3 mm long, pale yellow, limbs 3.5–4.7 \times 1.2–1.7 mm, mostly light yellow or light greenish yellow at base grading to bright yellow at tip, \pm crescent-shaped with lower margin curved upward < 90° and upward margin concavely curved between basal lobe and tip, lobed above each claw, near base of each limb with an upward and outward directed, longitudinally elongate protrusion compressed side-to-side coupled with matching protrusion on wings; **stamens** 10, diadelphous (9 filaments fused and 1 free); filaments 5–6 mm long, free portion 1.5–1.7 mm from filament sheet, whitish to pale yellow, curving upward and matching curve of pistil, expanded at tip; anthers dithecal, < 0.4 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow, sticky; **pistil** 1, 6 mm long, sessile at base; ovary superior, straight and narrowly oblong, 3.5 mm long, green, glabrous, 1-chambered with 6 ovules attached to upper side; style arched

upward, ± 2.5 mm long, light green to whitish, glabrous, tuft of hairs absent below stigma; stigma terminal, capitate, minute, yellowish green. **Fruit:** pod (legume), dehiscent along both edges, 5–6-seeded, cylindrical slightly constricted between seeds, $21.5\text{--}28.5 \times 2.3\text{--}2.7$ mm, glossy brownish, straight from base and slightly arched upward above midpoint, veined on top and bottom, tip with downward short hook, glabrous. **Seed:** oblong kidney-shaped, $3\text{--}4.2 \times 1.8\text{--}2.6 \times 1.7$ mm, glossy marbled black and light brown, smooth. Mid-February–early September.

Native. Annual common and locally abundant throughout the range, especially in open, sunny habitats, including in disturbed grasslands and along trails, appearing as a weed. *Acmispon americanus* formerly was treated as *Lotus purshianus*. This is the largest of the local annual species and has distinctive white, pink, and yellow flowers that can be found even during the summer drought.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson