

*Acmispon argophyllus* (A. Gray) Brouillet var. *argophyllus*, SILVER LOTUS. Subshrub, summer-deciduous, many-stemmed at base, prostrate or decumbent to hanging or ascending, < 70 cm tall; shoots silvery gray, densely tomentose, velveteen on new growth. **Stems:** ± cylindrical, to 2.5 mm diameter, with 2 faint ridges descending from each leaf, brittle, densely matted, white-tomentose aging gray. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately compound with 3–5(–7) leaflets having alternate (subopposite) lateral leaflets, short-petiolate without pulvinus to sessile, with stipules; stipules 2, buried in dense hair at rachis base and obscure, glandlike and minute, red; petiole to 2 mm long, without obvious pulvinus; rachis somewhat flattened on upper side and shallowly channeled, to 8 × 1 mm, strigose; petiolules short; blades of leaflets elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate or narrowly obovate, in range 5–7(–12) × 2–5 mm, terminal leaflets like lateral leaflets, flat and never folded upward from midrib, asymmetric at base (lateral leaflets), entire, acute at tip, pinnately veined with only midrib conspicuous, densely short-strigose to tomentose. **Inflorescence:** umbel (condensed spike), axillary, 4–8-flowered, formed on a short peduncle, flowers subsessile, bracteate, densely tomentose; peduncle 0.8–5 mm long, tomentose like stem; bract at tip of peduncle 1-foliolate, leafletlike and short-petiolate, elliptic-ovate; bractlet subtending pedicel minute, without swollen base, red, glandular. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, pealike (papilionaceous), 3–5 mm across; **nectary chamber** around nectar-producing receptacle beneath ovary, cup-shaped; **calyx** 5-lobed (toothed), 4–5.5(–8) mm long, densely tomentose to short-strigose; tube funnel-shaped, tube > lobes, lower portion faintly 10-ribbed above nectary chamber; lobes ± equal, acuminate, 1.3–2 mm long; **petals** 5, clawed, claws 2.2–2.5 mm long; banner spreading and eventually arching backward, limb roundish, 6.7–7.8 × 3–4.2 mm (including claw), bright yellow without reddish veins, with a pair of swellings at base next to claw, not notched at tip; wings 2, oblong and remaining on sides of flower, ± 7.5 × 4.3–5.5 mm (including claw), bright yellow, lobed on upper edge above claw, bluntly rounded at tip, linked to keel by a fold on face of limb on basal half coupling with matching ridge on keel; keel of 2 petals partially fused above midpoint, 6.5–7 × 1.8–2 mm (including claws), ± lobed at base above claw, wings ≥ keel, bright yellow, not notched at tip, clasping wings by folds on limb face; **stamens** 10, diadelphous (9 filaments fused and 1 free); filaments fused nearly to tip in ± straight sheet 6–7(–9) mm long, pale yellow; anthers dithecal, 0.2–0.5 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish to pale yellow, sticky; **pistil** 1, 6–7 mm long; ovary superior, lanceoloid, to 4 mm long, green, silvery strigose, 1-chambered with several ovules attached to upper side; style straight except curved upward 1.5 mm approaching tip, light to pale green, strigose below and glabrous above midpoint, tuft of hairs absent below stigma; stigma slightly exserted above anthers, capitate, light yellowish green, papillate. **Fruit:** legume (pod), indehiscent, 1(–2)-seeded, arching upward, 4.8–7 mm long including persistent style, strigose, strongly ribbed on sutures + lower suture keeled, netlike veined but ± concealed beneath hairs on valve faces; ovary = calyx. **Seed:** kidney-shaped, 2.3–2.7 × 0.8–1 mm, dull dark olive green mottled with dark red to blackish, hard; hilum tiny and asymmetric on 1 side of indentation. Late January–late June.

Native. A perennial, essentially a subshrub, growing in the cracks of large sandstone boulders in the central SMM. *Acmispon argophyllus* is a silvery plant; all exposed green organs have a dense cover of reflective hairs.

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