

*Acmispon grandiflorus* (Benth.) Brouillet var. *grandiflorus*, LARGE-FLOWERED LOTUS. Subshrub to perennial herb, many-stemmed at base, with spreading to ascending, flexible branches, 30–80(–110) cm tall; shoots with widely spaced cauline leaves,  $\pm$  villous and short-villous to strigose. **Stems:** low-ridged becoming cylindrical, to 4 mm diameter, initially with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, tough, green, silky-hairy aging glabrescent at base with red and brown periderm; hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately compound with (3–)5–9 alternate to opposite leaflets, 25–60 mm long, short-petiolate without pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to petiole base, awl-shaped to narrowly triangular,  $< 0.8$  mm long, fleshy and greenish at base, glandular and reddish at tip, short-strigose; petiole 0.3–2.5 mm long, without obvious pulvinus, with the basal leaflet often attached close to 1 stipule; rachis somewhat flat on upper side, 14–26 mm long; petiolules 0.7–2 mm long; blades of leaflets obovate to elliptic, 10–25(–45)  $\times$  5–15 mm, tapered at base, entire, acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, soft and silky with ascending hairs. **Inflorescence:** umbel (condensed raceme), axillary, typically 5–9-flowered, formed on a long peduncle, bracteate, short-hairy; peduncle 35–90(–120) mm long increasing to 145 mm long in fruit, often  $>$  leaf, bract subtending umbel 1-foliolate, leafletlike and short-petiolate, ovate, blade often persistent during fruit development; bractlet subtending pedicel minute, with swollen base and deltate, glandular and reddish tip, together bract + bractlets forming a involucrelike whorl at the end of the peduncle; pedicel 1–3 mm long, strigose-villous. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, pea-like (papilionaceous),  $\pm 10$  mm across, 15–20 mm long, curved upward; **nectary chamber** around nectar-producing receptacle beneath ovary, cup-shaped; **calyx** 5-lobed, greenish but often turning red and glossy on the upper side, 8.5–11 mm long; tube 5–6.5  $\times$  3–3.5 mm, lower portion faintly 10-ribbed, expanded abruptly above nectary chamber,  $\pm$  strigose; teeth (lobes) acuminate, (1.5–)2.5–4.5 mm long, upper 2 teeth slightly longer, densely white-hairy along sinuses, internally  $\pm$  strigose; **petals** 5, light yellow or paler blushed with rose before or after pollination, clawed, the claws  $\pm 5$  mm long; banner arching upward and eventually backward, oblanceolate, 19–23  $\times$  8–12 mm, peach-colored but often more yellow at base and becoming blushed rose-colored approaching tip, often with fine, radiating, rose-colored lines above midpoint,  $\pm$  notched at tip; wings 2,  $\pm$  oblanceolate but arching slightly upward and pair often twisted to top and bottom, 19–21 mm long (including claw), light yellow or blushed rose on exposed margin, linked to keel by a fold on face of limb; keel of 2 petals partially fused above midpoint,  $\pm$  crescent-shaped, 12–13.5 mm long, wings  $\gg$  keel, light yellow, distinctly notched at tip, clasping wings by folds on limb face; **stamens** 10, diadelphous (9 filaments fused and 1 free); filament sheet 7–10 mm long + free portion  $\pm 2$  mm long, pale green; anthers dithecal,  $\pm 1 \times 0.7$  mm, creamy white, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white, copious, sticky; **pistil** 1, arching slightly upward and slightly  $>$  stamens,  $\pm 12.5$ –13 mm long; ovary superior, linear,  $\pm 8.5 \times 0.8$  mm, compressed side-to-side, 1-chambered with ca. 30 ovules attached to upper side; style straight, 3–3.5 mm long, bearing a tuft of straight, whitish hairs below stigma; stigma touching anthers, conic-capitate to hemispheric, 2–3  $\times$  diameter of style, viscid. **Fruit:** pod (legume), dehiscent by 2 twisting valves, to 20-seeded, ascending, straight, 30–60  $\times$  3 mm, dark reddish brown, twisting valves ejecting seeds. **Seed:** ovoid kidney-shaped to  $\pm$  spheric, 2–2.2  $\times$  1.6–2 mm, dull grayish tan with irregular blackish markings. Late January–late May.

Native. Perennial occurring most commonly in opening and on disturbed slopes in chaparral, especially preferring crevices in sandstone of the central SMM, e.g., along Saddle Peak Road, and exhibiting robust growth after fire. *Acmispon grandiflorus* has showy, peach-colored flowers, not bright yellow, and its fruits are distinctive as ascending and dark reddish brown, appearing cylindrical but with strongly twisted valves, which eject the seeds when they dehisce. The wings of this species tend to twist so that they appear top and bottom rather than lateral to the keel, which is much shorter than the wings.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson