

*Acmispon micranthus* (Torrey & A. Gray) Brouillet, SAN DIEGO LOTUS. Annual, taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, prostrate or decumbent, mostly < 15 cm tall; shoots sericeous to pilose or becoming glabrescent. **Stems:** cylindric, < 1 mm diameter, sparsely sericeous becoming glabrescent. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately compound with 4–7 alternate leaflets, petiolate without pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, minutely triangular becoming glandlike, reddish tipped, early-deciduous; petiole 1.5–3 mm long; rachis compressed top-to-bottom and slightly channeled, 1 mm wide, sparsely pilose on lower side; petiolules < 0.5 mm long, pale green to  $\pm$  flesh-colored; blades of leaflets obovate to oval or elliptic, in range 4.5–10  $\times$  2.5–6 mm,  $\pm$  equal or basal ones smaller, flat, not fleshy, tapered or rounded and often slightly asymmetric at base, entire, obtuse to rounded at tip, pinnately veined, dull, sericeous to  $\pm$  pilose. **Inflorescence:** umbel (condensed raceme), axillary, in range 4–5-flowered, bracteate, soft-hairy; peduncle < 2 mm long, sparsely sericeous; bractlet subtending pedicel deltate, 0.1 mm, red; pedicel at anthesis < 0.5 mm long, sparsely pilose. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, papilionaceous (papilionaceous), 1.5 mm across; **nectary chamber** around nectar-producing receptacle beneath ovary; **calyx** 5-lobed, in range 2 mm long, green, pilose-villous; tube compressed side-to-side; lobes (teeth) acuminate-lanceolate, 0.5–0.7 mm long, tube > teeth, upper 2 teeth slightly longer; **petals** 5, in range 3–3.5 mm long, bright yellow, slender-clawed to midpoint; banner with limb strongly folded, broadly wedge-shaped, limb 1.6–1.8  $\times$   $\pm$  1.5 mm, often shallowly notched at tip, not conspicuously veined; wings 2, oblong, limb 1.6–1.8  $\times$  0.6 mm, < keel; keel of 2 partially fused petal, straight; **stamens** 10, diadelphous (9 filaments fused + 1 free), with stamens fused nearly to tip; filament sheet ca. 2.5 mm long and having strongly curved tips, whitish; anthers dithecal, minute, yellowish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish, sticky; **pistil** 1, > stamens; ovary superior, initially straight linear-lanceoloid, 1.8–2 mm long, green, 4-sided, sericeous above midpoint, 1-chambered with 2 ovules attached to upper side; style strongly arched upward, greenish, densely short-hairy on lower side approaching stigma; stigma minute. **Fruit:** pod (legume), 2-seeded, indehiscent and dropping beneath plant, 2-seeded, tapered-linear with a bend at a seed near base and having a recurved to coiled beak, 12–17 mm long, blackish. **Seed:** oblong-fusiform, 2.5–3.5 mm long, lacking a hard seed coat; radicle prominent. Early March–mid-April.

Native. Ephemeral annual seldom spotted in grassland and openings in scrubland, known from scattered localities, e.g., patches along the Conejo Grade, SMMNRA Circle X Ranch, and near SMMNRA Paramount Ranch (SMM) and Chatsworth Reservoir (SH), but probably occurring elsewhere. *Acmispon micranthus* is widely treated instead as *Lotus hamatus*. This plant can be mistaken for a small individual of *A. maritimus*, but *A. micranthus* has a much smaller flower and an indehiscent, two-seeded fruit having a bend at the basal seed and also a bend at the beak.

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