

Acmispon strigosus (Nutt.) Brouillet, STRIGOSE LOTUS. Annual, taprooted, several-stemmed at base, procumbent to decumbent, 4–15 cm tall, radiating to 30 cm from center; shoots short-strigose with whitish, upward-pointing hairs; flowering early when cotyledons still present and continuing to flower after basal leaves senesce. **Stems:** cylindrical, < 1.5 mm diameter, tough, green or often dark reddish orange, mostly moderately short-strigose but densely so on unexpanded young growth. **Leaves:** helically alternate, 1-pinnately compound with 4–9 unevenly disposed leaflets, the lateral leaflets mostly alternate to subopposite and terminal leaflets 1–3, petiolate without pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, at petiole base, glandlike and inconspicuous, deltate to conic, < 0.3 mm long, pale or red-tipped; petiole 0.5–2.5 mm long; rachis channeled and ± flattened, 3–8 mm long, loosely short-strigose with some hairs arching; petiolules = pulvinus to 0.5 mm long, whitish; blades of leaflets oblanceolate or obovate to elliptic, 1.5–6 × 0.7–2.5 mm, 1 terminal leaflet the longest (> 0.5 mm), ± fleshy, somewhat folded upward along midrib, tapered at base, entire, rounded to truncate or slightly notched at tip, inconspicuously pinnately veined with only midrib evident. **Inflorescence:** in range a 1-flowered umbel (solitary flower), axillary, bracteate; peduncle cylindrical, 5–20 mm long (increasing in fruit), > leaf, short-strigose; bract at tip of peduncle 1-foliolate or 3-foliolate, leaflike and sessile (if 1-foliolate = stalked and having a petiolule), persistent; bractlet subtending pedicel at abscission zone inconspicuous, broadly deltate, ca. 0.1 mm long, fleshy; pedicel < 0.5 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, pealike (papilionaceous), 4.5–8 mm across; **nectary chamber** around nectar-producing receptacle beneath ovary, 0.8–1 mm long, ± fleshy, green; **calyx** 5-lobed, 4–5 mm long, short-strigose, internally glabrous or short-pubescent; tube narrowly bell-shaped, 2.8–3 mm long not increasing in fruit, green tinged dark reddish orange, externally without conspicuous venation but internally 5-veined; lobes unequal, acuminate to triangular, 1–2 mm long, upper lobes > the other lobes, short-strigose, internally with hairs above midpoint; **petals** 5; banner not clawed, initially ± folded over wings and keel, at anthesis arching upward and spreading and curving upward to vertical, after folded again, broadly ovate, 8–11.5 × 4–8 mm, yellow with radiating reddish orange to reddish veins on inner face, similarly veined or ± uniformly blushed reddish orange on lower (outer) surface, long-tapered at base and marginally thickened; wings 2, clawed, claws slender, 2–3 mm long, whitish; limbs cupped spatulate-obovate, 4–6.2 × 2–3 mm, uniformly bright yellow, asymmetrically truncate at base, locked with keel by protruded and indented areas near base; keel of 2 petals with limbs fused along lower margins, < wings, clawed, claws slender, 2–2.7 mm long, whitish, limb laterally flattened scoop-shaped, ca. 3 × 1.5 mm, upper margins ± straight, uniformly bright yellow; **stamens** 10, diadelphous (9 fused and 1 free); filaments 3.5–5.7 mm long with filament sheet 3–4.7 mm long, curved upward, greenish, glabrous, free portions alternately long and short, 0.4–0.6 mm long (short filaments) and 0.8–1.3 mm long (long filaments); anthers dithecal, oblong to oblong-ovate, 0.5–0.6 × 0.5 mm, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white to pale yellow, copious, sticky; **pistil** 1, 5–6.3 mm long, > stamens; ovary superior, cylindrical, 4–5 × 0.5 mm, curved upward above midpoint, green, glabrous, 1-chambered with 10–15 ovules attached to upper side; style bent upward near end of filament sheath, 1–1.3 mm long, light green, with tuft of short hairs from lower margin beneath stigma; stigma obovate-capitate, with a narrow, decurrent “proboscis” on lower side, ca. 0.3 × 0.15 mm, green. **Fruit:** pod (legume), dehiscent by 2 twisting valve, 7–15-seeded, straight-

cylindric but slightly curved approaching tip, 15–25(–35) × 2–2.5 mm (including beak), light brown, short-strigose. **Seed:** vertebralike, ca. 1 × 1 × 1 mm, dull mottled light gray, light brown, and black, the black sometimes in bands, hard. Late December–early May.

Native. A diminutive annual found throughout the range in openings of chaparral. *Acmispon strigosus* is characteristically decumbent, with stems typically less than fifteen centimeters long, and the shoots are short-strigose. In range this species forms only solitary flowers, i.e., an umbel reduced to one flower, subtended by a unifoliate to trifoliate bract at the tip of a long peduncle. *Acmispon strigosus* is easy to distinguish from *A. wrangelianus*, the other species with solitary flowers, by flower position; *A. wrangelianus* has flowers positioned close to the stem on short peduncles. During mornings, the banner of *A. strigosus* is vertical and widely spreading, easy to spot when projected away from the leaves. Its calyx has short lobes relative to the length of the tube, externally lacks obvious veins or ribs, and is short-strigose. Fruits of *A. strigosus* are spreading on the elongate peduncles and have seven to fifteen seeds, more seeds than for any other annual lotus species of California.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson