

Allium peninsulare Greene var. *peninsulare*, PENINSULAR ONION. Perennial herb, geophytic, bulb-bearing, not rosetted, scapose with 1 erect inflorescence, in range 10–50+ cm tall; shoots with only 1 basal leaf, becoming leafless before flowering, glabrous, with onion odor; bulb ovoid to pear-shaped, to 15 mm diameter, outer bulb scales brownish with herringbone pattern, the pattern becoming irregular at tip (10×). **Stem (scape):** cylindrical, 2.5–4 mm diameter, stiff, green or green and reddish mottled grading to reddish and green mottled, white belowground. **Leaves:** alternate (1), simple and sheathing; sheath closed, barely extending above soil surface, persistent; blade linear, 200–400 mm long, not keeled, in \times section C-shaped, entire, parallel-veined. **Inflorescence:** umbel-like, flat-topped, (10–)20–30-flowered, to ca. 1/2 flowers open at once, bracteate, glabrous; bracts subtending umbel 2, fused at base, broadly ovate, membranous aging scarious, 16–22 \times 8–13 mm, long-tapered at tip, covering flower buds when emerging from soil, splitting apart as inflorescence expands, persistent and reflexed during fruit set; pedicel at anthesis ascending to spreading, 14–30 mm long, purplish, glaucous. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 8–10 mm across; **tepals** 6 in 2 whorls, perianth bell-shaped, deep rose to strong reddish purple (pure white), tepals with faint greenish midstripe and a green or greenish patch at base on outer surface opposite filament attachment; outer tepals narrowly ovate to obovate with slightly outward-bending tips, 9–13 \times 3–5.5 mm, pinkish to whitish on lower surface but reddish purple around area of filament attachment, inner tepals slightly shorter, same color or lighter (deep purplish pink) grading to pinkish or whitish on inner surface; **stamens** 6, fused to bases of tepals, included; filaments erect, unequal, 3–5(–6) mm long, the 3 opposite inner tepals 1 mm longer, 1.3 mm wide at base gradually tapered to tip, white to light pink; anthers versatile, dithecal, \pm 2 mm long, tinged pink when young, arrow-shaped at base, with fingerlike projection at tip, longitudinally dehiscent, the inner 3 stamens dehiscing first; pollen whitish; **nectary** beneath ovary and concealed by stamen bases, producing copious nectar; **pistil** 1, 5.5–7 mm long; ovary superior, inversely conic and 3-lobed, 2 \times 1.8 mm, green and nectar-producing on basal part with intermediate whitish band, dark red above, the lobes deeply creased on top, 3-chambered, each chamber filled with 2 ovules attached to center; style arising from pit at top of ovary, 2.5–5 mm long, same color as filaments; stigma with 3 short lobes. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves, 6-seeded, 3-lobed, ca. 4 \times 2.5 mm. **Seed:** obovoid, 1.8–2.2 mm long, black. Early April–mid-May.

Native. Geophytic perennial herb occurring throughout the range in relatively moist, rocky patches, often growing with grasses but also with other natives, such as *Selaginella bigelovii*, interesting annuals, and the monocotyledonous geophytes *Toxicoscordium fremontii* or *Chlorogalum pomeridianum*. *Allium peninsulare* produces a single, slender leaf, which disappears usually before the first flower opens, but this species is unmistakable because the flowers are reddish purple, and the umbel-like cluster is easily distinguished from all other local species in the genus.

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