

Astragalus antiselli A. Gray, ANTISELLI'S MILKVETCH, SANTA BARBARA LOCOWEED.

Subshrub, several-stemmed at base from short woody base, bushlike, with ascending to erect shoots, in range 30–80 cm tall; shoots most often grayish when white short-strigose (sericeous), but some individuals greener on leaflets. **Stems:** angled and low-ridged, never straight (sinusoidal), to 7 mm diameter on new growth, tough, green, strigose with upward-pointing hairs; pith hollow; persistent basal stem to 12 mm diameter, woody, covered with bark. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately compound, with 12–15 pairs of lateral leaflets, 70–160 mm long, petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to petiole base and stem at node, acuminate-deltate to acute-deltate, 2–4 mm long, light green, short-strigose on outer surface; petiole without conspicuous pulvinus, 2.5–30 mm long; rachis deeply channeled, with leaflets attached near upper edge, strigose; petiolule = pulvinus, 0.5–1 mm long, with purple-red spots on exposed side (not associated with hair bases), short-strigose; blades of leaflets lanceolate to elliptic (terminal leaflet heart-shaped to obovate), 3–30 × 2–11 mm, decreasing upward, obtuse to broadly tapered at base, entire, rounded at tip or notched on upper leaflets, inconspicuously pinnately veined, dull bluish green and strigose, reddish on margins, upper surface occasionally glabrous.

Inflorescence: raceme, axillary, 25–80-flowered, flowers helically alternate, bracteate, strigose; peduncle ca. 7-ridged, 60–155 mm long increasing to 200 mm in fruit, tough, curved upward; rachis ridged, 70–145 mm long, with ridge descending from each bractlet; bractlet subtending pedicel acuminate-triangular, 1–2 mm long, short-strigose with white or mostly very dark maroon hairs, persistent; pedicel ascending and arched outward (recurved), 1.5–5 mm long, white short-strigose with some maroon hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, pealike (papilionaceous), 4.3–6 mm across; **nectary** nectar-producing receptacle beneath ovary; **calyx** 5-lobed, 3.5–4.5 mm long; tube somewhat oblique with tube shorter on upper side, short-ciliate at base of sinuses, light green or light yellowish green, short-strigose with white and mostly grayish maroon hairs; lobes subequal, acuminate-triangular to acuminate-deltate, 0.8–1.4 mm long; **petals** 5, light greenish yellow to light yellow, slightly paler toward base and claws; banner obovate, 12–13 mm long, spreading and arching upward, sometimes with margins curved upward, tapered at base, notched at tip (0.6–1 mm deep); wings 2, clawed, 10.2–11.2 mm long, claw 4.5–6 mm long, limb ± obovate, 5.7–7.5 × 2.5–2.7 mm (including lobe), with basal lobe above claw and a protuberance directed downward and forward locking with and matching indentation of keel petals, the backward-pointing basal lobe 1.2–1.5 mm long, thick and somewhat spongy; keel of 2 petals fused along most of lower edges, clawed, scooplike, 10.3–11 mm long, claws ± 5.5 mm long, base free ca. 2.5 mm long and fused along upper part, limbs ± semi-ovate, 4–4.5 × 2.2–2.5 mm, fused almost to tip along curved lower margins, ± straight on upper edges, with a backward-pointing, basal lobe (± 1 mm long) above claw, with an indentation on lower part of each locking with protuberance on wing blade; **stamens** 10, diadelphous (9 filaments fused and 1 free), 10–11 mm long; filament sheet ca. 7 mm long, greenish white, filament free portion curved upward; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, broad, < 1 mm long, orange, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen orange, copious, sticky; **pistil** 1, 8.5–10 mm long, stalked (stipe), stipe ± 3 mm long; ovary superior, 5–6 mm long, with dense cover of appressed white hairs, 1-chambered having to 30 ovules attached to upper side; style curved, white, glabrous; stigma capitate, greenish. **Fruit:** pod (legume), pendent on long stalk 7–11+ mm long, dehiscent along 1 or both

margins, to 20-seeded, flat, oblanceolate to narrowly elliptic, $22\text{--}36 \times 5.5\text{--}7$ mm, tan, long-tapered at base, \pm veiny, glabrate or sparsely short-strigose. **Seed:** asymmetric heart-shaped to kidney-shaped, $2\text{--}3 \times 1.8\text{--}2$, dull brown. Late March–late May.

Native. Perennial herb occurring in small, localized populations, but encountered mostly easily on SMMNRA Cheeseboro-Palo Comado (SH), where it occurs on edges of grassland and chaparral next to southern oak woodland. *Astragalus antiselli* elsewhere is treated as *A. trichopodus* var. *phoxus*, which does not explain a long list of vegetative and reproductive features that distinguish this taxon from the varieties of *A. trichopodus*. This is a subshrub that forms flat fruits, and it has a very different flowering season than its relative with inflated fruits.

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