

*Calochortus catalinae* S. Watson, CATALINA MARIPOSA LILY. Perennial herb, geophytic, bulb-bearing, fibrous-rooted, 1-stemmed at base, branched in flowering canopy, ascending to erect, 20–85 cm tall; shoots with 1 basal leaf (partially withered at flowering) and several cauline leaves below the lowest lateral shoot, glabrous, inconspicuously glaucous; bulb solitary, ca. 10 cm deep, ovoid, < 20 mm diameter, truncate at base, covered with thin, membranous, dark brown scales; bulblet produced in leaf axil at the lowest node, lanceoloid, < 15 mm long, white. **Stems:** belowground stem cylindrical, white, tapered to bulb, aboveground stem finely ridged, 2–4 mm diameter, with ridges descending from each leaf, green or ridges reddish, stiff but flexuous, not noticeably zigzagged; solid. **Leaves:** alternate, simple, sessile and  $\pm$  sheathing node; blade narrowly linear, 200–700  $\times$  4–7.5 mm (when flattened), basal leaves decomposing from tip backward so intact leaf typically < 350 mm long, flat aging U-shaped, winged and closed at base, narrowly membranous on margins and  $\pm$  entire with micropapillate cells, when tip present long-tapered, parallel-veined with veins raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** cyme, terminal and axillary, open, 1–4-flowered or reduced to 1 flower (especially on axillary inflorescences), bracteate, glabrous, slightly glaucous; bractlet opposite pedicel leaflike, to 110 mm long, typically < pedicel; pedicel stemlike, ascending erect, at anthesis 30–110 mm long, several-ridged below midpoint. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 45–70 mm across, bowl-shaped to bell-shaped; **sepals** 3, broadly cupped-lanceolate to boat-shaped, 20–39  $\times$  6–8 mm, long-tapered and becoming recurved at tip, at anthesis not coiled, glabrous, asymmetric with exposed margin narrower; in bud sepals yellowish green with white to lavender membranous margins, not purplish red mottled at tip and on margins, at anthesis fading to light green or creamy white between mostly green or purplish red veins; inner surface light lavender with a central circular, purple spot; **petals** 3, with hairy nectary gland, ascending, fan-shaped to broadly obovate, (20–)30–55  $\times$  22–47 mm aging with strongly inrolled margins, below midpoint white to light lavender with a conspicuous purple spot at base, above midpoint white often changing to or aging darker lavender to lavender purple at tip and without markings, entire along broadly tapered, thickened base, with outer margin broadly truncate and not noticeably toothed or fringed, having many fine, parallel veins, basal spot broadly ovate to elliptic or semicircular, 6.5–19 mm long and having a hairy nectary gland; **nectary** on upper surface of petal not depressed above base, without margin, oblong to somewhat round, 3–4.5  $\times$  3–4 mm, yellowish green, densely hairy, the hairs on nectary thick and wavy, yellowish and purplish, to 2 mm long, branched or unbranched, on surrounding purple spot hairs more sparse, wavy, yellow, unbranched, and longer, 3–4 mm long; **stamens** 6, fused to bases of sepals and petals, erect; filaments 8–10 mm long,  $\pm$  1.5 mm wide near white base, dark reddish purple above and tapered toward tip, compressed front-to-back; anthers basifixed, dithecal, narrowly lanceolate to narrowly oblong, 6–11.5  $\times$  1.8–2.2 mm, alternating of 2 lengths (ca. 2 mm difference), light purplish pink, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light purplish pink; **pistil** 1, at anthesis 8–13 mm long; ovary superior, linear and conspicuously 3-angled, light green, glaucous, 3-chambered, each chamber with many ovules along 2 rows attached to center; style < 1 mm long; stigmas 3, crestlike lobes, each lobe spreading and recurved, ca. 2 mm long, sometimes tinged rose, grooved and papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, septicidal, 3-valved dehiscent from the top downward, many-seeded, erect, narrowly oblong and 3-angled, 22–40  $\times$  9–11 mm, straw-colored, with seeds in 2 rows per chamber. **Seed:**

broadly elliptic and  $\pm$  flattened, generally with 4 wings on edges,  $4\text{--}4.5 \times 2\text{--}3.5$  mm, tan-vanilla, glistening on flat surfaces. Late March–late May.

Native. Perennial geophyte easily recognized during springtime, being the common mariposa lily throughout the range in grassland as well as coastal sage scrub, where often growing in close proximity to shrubs or perennial grasses. *Calochortus catalinae* grows in clay soil from deep bulbs, which are difficult to dig without accidentally separating from the plant, but there is also a small bulblet in the axil of the basal leaf. Its flowers vary in size within a population; they tend to be white with a dark purple spot at the base of each petal, visible on the outside, but many individuals have petals that are tinged lavender or even more darkly pigmented above the midpoint, intensifying as a factor of aging.

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