

*Calochortus splendens* Benth., SPLENDID MARIPOSA LILY. Perennial herb, geophytic, fibrous-rooted, 1(–2)-stemmed at base, branching at each flower stalk, ± erect, 20–100 cm tall; shoots with 1–2 basal leaves and several cauline leaves, basal leaf starting to wither from tip backward when first flowering occurs, glabrous; bulb deep-seated (to 150 mm belowground), ovoid, to 25 × 17 mm, present at first flowering but separating easily from plant when unearthed. **Stems:** cylindrical to faintly ridged, to 4 mm diameter, stiff, green becoming reddish and sometimes purplish striped (white belowground), glaucous. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple without sheath but closed at node; blade of basal leaves narrowly linear, 100–370 × < 5 mm, sometimes flattened cylindrical, aging nongreen, parallel-veined with veins slightly raised on upper surface and certain principal veins raised on lower surface; blade of cauline leaves linear, slightly wider and shorter than basal leaves and long-tapered, with membranous margins, with a thin, often recurved tip, parallel-veined with principal veins raised. **Inflorescence:** cyme, terminal and axillary, open, 1–8-flowered, branching alternate distichous, lateral inflorescences 1–4-flowered, flower on long pedicel, bracteate, glabrous; axes glaucous; bractlet subtending pedicel leaflike but not closed (< 3/4-sheathing); pedicel ascending, at maturity 150–230 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 30–40 mm wide, bell-shaped, 28–45 mm long; unscented; **sepals** 3, long acuminate-lanceolate, 20–35 × 5.3–5.7 mm, pale green with reddish tip, whitish or very pale green on upper (inner) surface with a reddish purple spot just above thickened base, becoming recurved to several-coiled, midvein and the outermost lateral veins reddish, other veins generally greenish or turning reddish with age, margins asymmetric, membranous white or pale purple and translucent, glabrous or sometimes papillate on upper margin; **petals** 3, with a nectary, fan-shaped, 30–50 × 31–50+ mm, light to deep lilac or pink-lavender, entire along broadly tapered base, dentate-crenate on margins above midpoint, reddish purple or lilac above midpoint, paler at base but with a reddish purple spot near gland, upper surface below midpoint with scattered long, unbranched or forked, white to pale lilac hairs; **nectary** on upper surface, neither sunken nor bordered, naked and obscure or with a dense concentration of fungoid processes (branched hairs); **stamens** 6, fused to bases of sepals and petals; filaments erect, 6–10 mm long, lilac or purplish pink, 2 mm wide near base, tapering to tip; anthers erect, basifixed, dithecal, 6.5–9.5 × 1.5–2 mm, very deep violet, longitudinally and sideways dehiscent; pollen golden yellow; **pistil** 1, to 15 mm long; ovary superior, linear, conspicuously 3-angled, green with reddish purple edges, distinctly glaucous above midpoint; style < 1 mm long; stigma lobes 3, each lobe recurved, 2–2.5 mm long, 2-crested with short, thick hairs, side walls of crest with purple markings. **Fruit:** capsule, septicidal, dehiscent from top downward, 3-valved, many-seeded, erect, linear and 3-angled, 38–63 × 6.5–7 mm, straw-colored, tips spreading, 3-chambered with 2 rows of seeds per chamber. **Seed:** elliptic and flattened, 3–3.5 × 1.5–2.5 mm, light tan, with prominent ⊥ ledge = margin, lightweight and spongy. Early May–late June.

Native. A seldom-encountered geophytic perennial herb in open, grassy patches of chaparral in SMM. *Calochortus splendens* has pastel lilac flowers, reminiscent of clarkias. This species has much simpler ornamentation and pigmentation on the petals than typical mariposa lilies, especially more simple than pigmentation of the very common *Calochortus catalinae*, with which it might be confused.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson