

Caulanthus lasiophyllus (Hooker & Arnott) Payson, CALIFORNIA MUSTARD. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, erect, 14–90(–120) cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, sparsely hirsute below and nearly glabrous above, the hairs unbranched. **Stems:** cylindric, to 10 mm diameter; hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply pinnately lobed (basal and lower cauline leaves) and unlobed (upper cauline leaves), petiolate, without stipules; petiole channeled, compressed top-to-bottom, of basal leaves 10–30(–40) mm long, of cauline leaves < 10 mm long, often with hairs on margins; blade of basal and lower cauline leaves narrowly ovate to elliptic in outline, 20–130(–220) × 8–55 mm, long-tapered at base, lobes subopposite to alternate, usually dentate on the leading margins and entire on trailing margins, acute to acuminate at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, hirsute especially on basal leaves; blade of upper cauline leaves lanceolate, gradually reduced, commonly with 1–3 acuminate lobes at base, serrate to dentate on margins, pinnately veined, sparsely hirsute to glabrous.

Inflorescence: panicle of racemes, terminal, racemes ascending, many-flowered, ± flat-topped with open flowers at level of buds, in range buds light yellow or pale green with purplish tips, bracteate; bract subtending peduncle and each raceme leaflike, = diminutive, subsessile cauline leaf; rachis glabrous to sparsely pubescent; bractlets subtending pedicels absent; pedicel at anthesis ± 2 mm long and ascending increasing 2× and strongly reflexed in fruit, glabrous to sparsely hirsute. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 3–4 mm across; **sepals** 4, erect, ± equal, oblong-elliptic, 2.7–3.2 × 0.8–1.2 mm, not pouched at base, whitish on lower part and pale greenish or light yellowish above midpoint, sometimes purplish on cupped tip, colors fading with age, glabrous or with several hairs near tip; **petals** 4, ascending, not clawed, narrowly linear-oblongate, in range 3–4.5 × 0.5 mm, white to cream, not channeled, faintly 1-veined; **stamens** 6, dimorphic with outer 2 short and inner 4 longer; filaments erect, at anthesis ± 2 mm (short stamens) and ± 3 mm long (long stamens), increasing slightly with age, whitish, only tapered near anther; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 1.2–1.3 mm long, light yellow, arrow-shaped at base, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **nectaries** exterior to long stamens and interior to short stamens, ± ringlike and weakly lobed, green; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, narrowly lanceoloid, ± 2–2.5 × 0.5 mm, green, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules; style extremely short and stout; stigma ± capitate, inconspicuously 2-lobed. **Fruit:** siliqua (silique), at maturity strongly reflexed, dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded, subcylindric-linear, 30–50(–70) mm long, ± straight, sometimes outcurved without bulging seeds, valves glabrous and veiny and with a conspicuous midvein, seeds in 1 row per chamber; beak short or absent. **Seed:** compressed-oblong, 1–1.2 × 0.5–0.6 mm, dull orangish, with small winglike margin at base and tip; not mucilaginous when wet. Mid-March–early June.

Native. An erect, 1-stemmed annual appearing during spring on recently burned chaparral. *Caulanthus lasiophyllus*, formerly treated as the genus *Guillenia*, has pinnately lobed basal leaves and is easily recognized when approaching the plant by its strongly reflexed mature and immature slender fruits. If recognized, plants in our range fit variety *lasiophyllus*.
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