

Clarkia epilobioides (Nutt.) Nelson & J. F. Macbr., WILLOW-HERB CLARKIA, CANYON CLARKIA. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, unbranched or with several ascending branches typically above midplant, flowering shoots erect with nodding buds (= curved ovaries), erect, 6–70 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, typically with unexpanded axillary shoots with tufts of small leaves above midplant, lower leaves abscised before first flowering, puberulent, the hairs mostly arching and < 0.25 mm long, not glandular-hairy. **Stems:** cylindric, to 3 mm diameter, green becoming red, puberulent, later large plants forming smooth, brown periderm. **Leaves:** subopposite (the lowest nodes) and helically alternate, simple, sessile to short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole ± cylindric, to 2 mm long, turning red, often twisted to produce ascending leaves; blade linear to narrowly lanceolate or narrowly elliptic, fully expanded 5–20 × < 3 mm, entire to remotely short-dentate on margins with several minute teeth per side, acute and red at tip, with only midrib visible sunken on upper surface and raised and often red on lower surface, puberulent, lower surface also short-strigose along midrib. **Inflorescence:** leafy spike, terminal, with each flower solitary in axil of a leaflike bractlet, several-flowered, flower in bud often nodding and at anthesis erect; bracteate, puberulent; bractlet subtending flower leaflike; pedicel absent (inferior ovary appearing like a ridged pedicel). **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 12–20 mm across, bowl-shaped; bud lanceoloid; hypanthium above ovary, narrowly funnel-shaped, 0.5–1.5 mm long, green turning reddish, short-strigose, internally with a ring of coarse white hairs at top below filaments, nectary in base of hypanthium surrounding style base, diminutive ringlike, dark green, producing copious nectar; **sepals** 4, partially fused, green with 4 white midstripes, when they split from pressure of expanding petals splitting along 1 suture line base to tip, short-reflexed at base and ascending and appressed to corolla, units broadly ovate to boatlike and 1-sided (= 4-sepal unit), individually lanceolate, 5–7.5 × 1.5–2 mm, aging mostly green below and purple above midpoint, purple-membranous on margins, acuminate at tip, several-veined from base, short-strigose (internally glabrous); **petals** 4, spreading, obovate, 5–10 mm long, white to pale cream fading rose, lacking spots, jagged on outer margin, sparsely pubescent at base; **stamens** 8 in 2 sets, free, arising of hypanthium rim, dimorphic; filaments 3–3.5 mm long (opposite sepals) and 2–2.5 mm long (opposite petals), white, glabrous; anthers monomorphic, dorsifixed, dithecal, 1.8–2.2 mm long and white or cream (outer stamens) and 1.2–1.4 mm long and pale yellow (inner stamens), longitudinally dehiscent; pollen colorless to pale yellow, held in a mass by minute threads (viscin threads); **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, straight to slightly curved cylindric, 10–15 mm long, green to red, with 4 vertical grooves, white short-strigose, without glandular hairs, 4-chambered, each chamber packed with 1 stack of many ovules; style exerted, as long as filaments of outer anthers, white; stigma 4-lobed, lobes when spreading touching anther bases of outer stamens, ovate, 0.5–0.7 mm long, fleshy, cream, margins becoming inrolled (revolute) with papillate-hairy stigmatic surface. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 4 valves, many-seeded, distinctly 4-sided with groove on each side, 15–22(–25) mm long, edges sharply defined. **Seed:** many-seeded, rhomboid 6-sided (± parallelogram) with sides quadrangular and having 2 parallel, oblique end walls, 0.4–0.7 mm long, dark brown with paler papillae, the largest on edges and the smallest on lateral walls, fairly dense on end walls, clustered on lateral walls resulting in a spotted appearance. Early April–late May.

Native. Annual occurring throughout the range, especially on moister and often partially shaded slopes. *Clarkia epilobioides* has the shortest flowering period of the local clarkia species and is the least resistant to dry conditions, so that it may be uncommon in the years receiving little rain. This is the local species of *Clarkia* with white flowers.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson