

Clarkia unguiculata Lindl., ELEGANT CLARKIA. Annual, taprooted, not rosetted, typically 1-stemmed at base, unbranched or branched from lower or upper nodes forming ascending, flowering lateral shoots, erect, 7–120(–255) cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, typically with unexpanded axillary shoots with tufts of small leaves, glabrous, glaucous. **Stems:** cylindric, to 10 mm diameter, light brown skin peeling in tough strips (exfoliating) thereby appearing glabrous. **Leaves:** helically alternate (cauline leaves) and opposite decussate (the lowest cauline leaves), simple, short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole 0.4–13 mm long, often bent toward stem; blade lanceolate to elliptic or ovate, 5–65 × 2–23 mm, grayish green, broadly tapered at base, removed short-dentate and sometimes slightly wavy on margins, acute to acuminate at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** leafy spike, terminal, > 1/2 plant height, several–many-flowered, flowers sessile but appearing to have a pedicel = long inferior ovary, axis erect with nodding buds, bracteate; axis red, glabrous and without glandular hairs, glaucous; bractlet subtending flower leaflike, spreading to somewhat reflexed, lanceolate to narrowly ovate, > fruit, subsessile on short, persistent base, entire to remotely short-dentate on margins, glaucous especially on lower surface. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 15–42 mm across; hypanthium above ovary, bell-shaped, 2–3.5(–5) × 2–3 mm, green, 8-veined, purple-pilose, internally with a ring of coarse hairs just above midpoint, **nectary** at base of hypanthium surrounding style base; **sepals** 4, free or partially fused as they split from pressure of expanding petals along suture lines, splitting along 1 suture line base to tip, or with short splits and sepals remaining fused above midpoint or at tips, short-reflexed at base and ascending and appressed to corolla, units broadly ovate to boatlike and 1-sided (= 4-sepal unit) to ovate on opposite sides (= 2-sepal units) and strongly reflexed individually or pairs, individually oblong-ob lanceolate, 11–15 × 2.5–3.2 mm, flaring at base, inner (upper) surface burgundy, glabrous, 3-veined, outer (lower) surface green and reddish, purple-pilose + short glandular-hairy; **petals** 4, spreading, 10–25 mm long, conspicuously clawed; claw to midpoint, crescent-shaped in \times -section, deep purplish red to deep purple, sparsely fine-puberulent especially on upper surface approaching limb; limb \pm triangular with rounded corners to heart-shaped, 6–10 mm long, reddish purple to lavender, jagged and wavy on margins, with veins radiating from claw, glabrous or sparsely and minutely glandular-hairy along central axis; **stamens** 8 in 2 sets, arising from hypanthium rim, free but inner whorl stamen bases fused on the inner side with a thick ring fringed with purplish pink hairs, dimorphic; at anthesis outer filaments weakly S-shaped, 8–15 mm long, reddish purple at base and lighter above, inner filaments less curved, 5.5–10 mm long, paler in color than outer filaments, filaments flattened front-to-back, sparsely minutely glandular-hairy; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 5–8 mm long and strong purplish red (outer stamens) and 3.2–5 mm long and light purple to pale yellow or creamy yellow (inner stamens), longitudinally dehiscent; pollen purplish (outer and inner stamens) to pale purple or yellowish (only inner anthers), pollen held in mass by minute threads (viscin threads); **pistil** 1, ovary inferior, straight, cylindric, 7.5–12.5 × 1 mm, green or purplish, 8-ribbed, white-pilose + densely short glandular-hairy, 4-chambered, each chamber packed with 1 stack of many ovules; style exerted several mm beyond outer anthers, greenish at base, pale reddish purple to tip, surface minutely convex; stigma 4-lobed, the lobes broadly ovoid, \pm 0.7 mm long, fleshy, pale yellow or whitish, papillate-hairy above. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 4 valves, many-seeded, cylindric, 15–25 × 2 mm,

straight to slightly curved, valves hairy with dried short-glandular and pilose hairs. **Seed:** cylindric with parallel-angled end walls (\pm parallelogram), 0.7–1.3 mm long, cylindric portion \pm 0.7 mm wide, dark brown covered with lighter papillae, on inner face with a narrowly lanceolate scar and tannish wishbone marking. Mid-April–early August.

Native. Annual commonly observed mid-spring to summer throughout the range, especially on open slopes in and near southern oak woodland. Stands of *Clarkia unguiculata* can be dense, with many tall specimens in good years but also exhibiting a wide range of plant heights. This species has remarkable flowers with conspicuously clawed petals, deep purple coloration of several flower parts, and long hairs (pilose) on the ovary and hypanthium.

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