

Datura wrightii Regel, TOLGUACHA. Perennial herb, evergreen or winter-deciduous (after freezing), deep-taprooted and thick-taprooted, several–many-stemmed at base, with principal branches divergent and ascending to spreading, 50–90(–150) cm tall; shoots puberulent, downy to velveteen, with inconspicuous stalked glandular hairs beneath the nonglandular hairs, ill-smelling. **Stems:** cylindric, often > 20 mm diameter, mottled green and rose-red or becoming nearly uniformly purple, densely gray-puberulent. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole ± cylindric with shallow channel, < 100 mm long (scaling with blade length), fleshy, densely puberulent; blade ovate to broadly ovate, 30–160 × 25–90 mm, conspicuously oblique at base, entire or with coarse teeth on margins, acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins slightly sunken on upper surface and conspicuously raised on lower surface, upper surface aging sparsely hairy. **Inflorescence:** flowers solitary, arising in fork of a major and minor stem from just above node, erect to ascending in bud and at anthesis, nodding after flower closes and during fruit development; bractlet subtending pedicel absent; pedicel thick, 10–27 mm long, curved downward in fruit, puberulent and glandular-hairy, becoming woody. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 120–150 mm across the flaring corolla, with nocturnal anthesis, sweetly fragrant; **calyx** unequally 2–4-lobed, 80–120 mm long, green, 15-veined with 5 conspicuous ridges, puberulent, abscising from base at fruiting with a persistent base around developing fruit; tube cylindric, at level of ovary internally having scattered, short glandular hairs; lobes erect, acute to acuminate, 15–30 mm long, sometimes with 2–3 lobes remaining fused during anthesis; **corolla** weakly 10-lobed, funnel-shaped, 150–200 mm long, white to creamy-white often tinged with violet approaching margin, in bud pleated and strongly twisted; tube strongly 5-angled, 65–85 × ± 10 mm gradually flaring to 20 mm in throat, creamy-white, with 5 sets of 3 ridges, 5 ridges alternating with 5 truncate furrows; lobes broadly rounded, 5 with tail-like tips (caudate) curving upward 10–20 mm and alternating with low lobes, short glandular-pilose along ridges, short-hairy on margin; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube, alternate with corolla lobes, the fused portion riblike, off-white, and bearing colorless hairs; filament free portions arising at base of corolla throat, < 90 mm long, white to creamy-white, glabrous; anthers slightly exerted above spreading corolla, basifixed, dithecal, 12–15 mm long, creamy-white, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **nectary disc** surrounding base of ovary, ringlike, yellowish to yellowish brown aging white during fruit development, producing copious thin nectar; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, sometimes slightly immersed in receptacle at anthesis, broadly conic, < 6 mm long and wide, with appressed, ascending, stiff, white emergences, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules attached to center; style exerted beyond anthers, 150–180 mm long, white, slightly flared and flattened at tip; stigma crested over rounded tip, pale green. **Fruit:** capsule, nodding, dehiscent by several irregular valves, many-seeded, hemispheroid, 25–40 mm wide, brown, with sharp woody prickles and a persistent, disclike calyx base, the prickles typically 3–7 mm long. **Seed:** compressed and ear-shaped or D-shaped, 5–5.5 × 4–4.5 × ca. 1.5 mm, 1-rimmed or short 2-rimmed along edge, brownish tan to orange-brown, grooved and ± short-crenate between rim and lateral face, brownish tan, faintly pitted (individual cells concave). January–December.

Native. Perennial herb common throughout the range in disturbed, full-sun habitats, especially along roadsides or where water runoff collects. *Datura wrightii* is a robust evergreen with soft leaves and axes, which when touched releases a foul odor from the

inconspicuous surface glands on leaves. Having a deep taproot permits this plant to tap moist soil horizons, providing enough water, even during summer drought, for high transpiration rates of leaves and the copious nectar of flowers. Jimson weed has huge, sweetly scented, nocturnal flowers that are attractive to hawkmoths, and in range flowers can be found every day of the year. Fruits of *D. wrightii* are conspicuously prickly and nodding from forks in the canopy.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson