

Diploaxis tenuifolia (L.) DC., PERENNIAL WALL-ROCKET. Perennial herb (subshrub), several-stemmed at base, ascending, 30–70 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, ± glabrous or glabrescent with scattered unbranched hairs mostly on lower plant, ill-smelling. **Stems:** cylindric, to 4 mm diameter, lower stem often with scattered stiff hairs to 1 mm long. **Leaves:** helically alternate, pinnately lobed to coarsely toothed, petiolate but not clasping, without stipules; petiole channeled, several–20 mm long but poorly defined; blade ± elliptic to oblanceolate in outline, 20–150 × 10–60 mm, long-tapered at base, lobes of basal leaves > midway to midrib, with or without teeth on lobes, pinnately veined with midrib raised slightly on lower surface, dull green, typically glabrous (sparse hairs on margins), lower surface with many raised glands visible (7×). **Inflorescence:** panicle of racemes, terminal, raceme > 20-flowered, flowers clustered with open flowers slightly overtopping buds and often = ascending immature fruit, becoming widely spaced in fruit, lacking bracts, glabrous; pedicel at anthesis 2–5 mm long increasing in range to 12–25 mm in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 15 mm across; **sepals** 4, dimorphic in opposite pairs, ± broadly elliptic, 4–5 mm long, green and reddish with narrow membranous margins, in bud 2 slightly longer and forming a distinct, hooded crest, shorter 2 sepals slightly narrower, glabrescent with occasional erect hairs near tip, each long sepal concealing a fingerlike structure at base 1 mm long (modified nectary) persistent beneath fruit even after dehiscence; **petals** 4, forming bowl-shaped corolla, clawed, obovate, 5–7 × 4 mm; claw to 2.5 mm long, whitish to pale yellow; limb lemon yellow (reddish purple); **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic with outer 2 short and inner 4 longer, in range to 6 mm long (long stamens and short stamens = sepals; filaments pale yellow; anthers basifixed, dithecal, ± arrow-shaped at base, lemon yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen lemon yellow; nectaries at inner bases of short filaments, small, green; **pistil** 1, 6 mm long; ovary superior, ± compressed-cylindric and straight, light yellow, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with 2 stacks of ovules; style vase-shaped, 0.5 mm long increasing 2–3× in fruit to become persistent beak, stigma capitate but 2-lobed, yellowish or aging purple, opposite anthers of longer stamens. **Fruit:** siliqua (silique), on short stalk (carpophore), dehiscing by 2 valves, many-seeded, somewhat compressed parallel to septum but bulging and never flat, in range ascending to suberect (spreading after dehiscence), (12–)20–45 mm long including persistent beak 1–2 mm long, dehiscing parallel to septum, seeds in 2 rows per chamber and sometimes valves bulging, with clearly defined midvein on each valve, glabrous; carpophore poorly defined, to 1 mm long, with a pair of persistent appendages at base; beak vase-shaped, lacking seeds. **Seed:** broadly ellipsoid and somewhat compressed, 1–1.2 mm long, dull yellow-brown, with the outline of U-shaped embryo visible, minutely pitted. July–late September.

Naturalized. Perennial herb known to date from one specimen collected in range (2003) at Zuma Beach, growing in a depression with standing water at the edge of a dune, but never observed there again. *Diploaxis tenuifolia* is an ill-smelling plant, due to the sulfurous compounds produced in myrosin cells of leaves and best observed on the lower surface as raised structures. Petals are lemon yellow, but in range the specimen also had some flowers with purple petals. The siliqua for this species has two rows of seeds on each side of the septum, the valve has a midvein that is easy to distinguish, and there is a persistent, seedless, vase-shaped beak with a two-lobed stigma. The fruit also has a short stalk

(carpophore), which is inconspicuous but bears at its base a pair of appendagelike structures, probably modified nectaries, which can be observed readily even on dry materials. A specimen collected by Peter Raven from nearby Elysian Park (1958) has fruits much shorter than reported elsewhere for this species.

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