

Erysimum capitatum (Hooker) Greene var. *capitatum*, WESTERN WALLFLOWER. Biennial herb, taprooted, rosetted (first year), 1-stemmed at base, often with several ascending flowering branches, erect to spreading, in range 30–115 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, having appressed, short-stalked 2-armed (T-shaped) hairs. **Stems:** angular, to 7 mm diameter, with a conspicuous ridge descending from each leaf, green on young growth becoming dark purple on lower stem, covered with periderm on former-year growth. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, short-petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile (cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole several mm long but indistinct from tapered base of blade; blade linear to linear-oblongate or narrowly lanceolate, 40–175 × 5.5–16 mm, long-tapered at base, entire to remotely short-dentate on margins, acuminate to acute at tip, midrib only conspicuous and raised on lower surface, dull green or aging purplish, the midrib green to whitish or dark purple. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, ± 75 mm in diameter, many-flowered, flat-topped with open flowers at same level as flower buds, flowers helically alternate, essentially lacking bracts, with appressed, 2-armed hairs; peduncle stemlike with ridges descending from pedicels, to 120 mm long; rachis to 500 mm long; bractlet subtending and fused to the lowest pedicel of raceme, leaflike; pedicel at anthesis 4–9 mm long and spreading increasing 2× and spreading or ⊥ to rachis axis in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 20 × 20 to 22 × 25 mm across, fragrant; **sepals** 4, dimorphic in opposite pairs, of outer pair oblong, 10.5–13.5 × 2–2.5 mm, ± pouchlike at base, colorless at acute to narrowly rounded tip, ± keeled; of inner pair oblongate, 10–13.5 × 1.3–2 mm, obtuse at hooded tip, the midrib conspicuous typically forming a ridge above midpoint and terminating in a purplish crest near tip, greenish, narrowly membranous on margins, appressed-pubescent; **petals** 4, clawed, 18–32 mm long, appressed-pubescent on lower surface; claw narrow and tapered to base, 9–16 × 0.7–2 mm, greenish with winged, membranous margins; limb obovate to oval, 6.5–16 × 4–11 mm, golden yellow to light orange, entire to ± crenate or sometimes notched at tip, inconspicuously pinnately veined; **nectaries** 4, green, variable and sometimes poorly defined + often without nectar, 1 opposite each lower sepal and at base of each pair of long stamens, 0.5 × 1.5–1.6 mm, 3-lobed or 3-toothed having central lobe or tooth < lateral lobes or absent, minutely hairy on lobe margins; 1 opposite each upper sepal and around base of each short stamen, ca. 1.2 × 1 mm, unequally 3–6-lobed or 3–6-toothed and having lobes inside of stamen > those of outside stamen; **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic with outer 2 short and inner 4 longer; filaments 5.5–8.5 mm long and 0.4–0.6 mm wide at base (short stamens) and 8–13.5 mm long and ± 1 mm wide at base (long stamens), fleshy, greenish, glabrous; anthers exerted (long stamens), basifixed, dithecal, narrowly oblong, 4.2–6.5 mm long (short stamens) and 3.2–5 mm long (long stamens), greenish yellow, with some appressed hairs, longitudinally and inwardly dehiscent, coiling after dehiscence; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1, 12–14 mm long, stigma exerted in late bud; ovary superior, straight, distinctly square in ×-section, valves parallel with septum, green, densely appressed-pubescent with 2-armed hairs, 2-chambered, each chamber with many ovules; style to ca. 1 mm long, expanding toward tip, elliptic in ×-section, essentially glabrous; stigma capitate, 2-lobed, the lobes ca. 1 mm diameter, ⊥ to septum, green, minutely papillate. **Fruit:** siliqua (silique), dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded, 4-sided linear, to 145 × 1–2 mm, strongly 4-ridged and rhombic in ×-section, valves densely appressed-pubescent with 2-armed hairs, with 1 row of seeds per chamber; beak 1.5–3 mm long. **Seed:** strongly

flattened ellipsoid to oblong, $2.2\text{--}2.7 \times 0.7$ mm, brown with empty, translucent tip. Early December–early June.

Native. A very showy, springtime biennial herb found occasionally in openings of shrubland, e.g., on slopes of road cuts in loose soil, often appearing with *Linanthus californicus*. *Erysimum capitatum* has a rosette of leaves giving rise to an erect shoot with a terminal, broad raceme of light orange flowers. With a good hand lens one can observe the tightly appressed, two-armed (T-shaped) hairs covering most exposed surfaces of the vegetative and reproductive plant.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson