

*Funastrum cynanchoides* (Decne.) Schltr. var. *hartwegii* (Vail) Krings, CLIMBING MILKWEED. Perennial herb to subshrub, summer-deciduous, several-stemmed at base, with twining or trailing herbaceous stems climbing over shrubs; shoots leafy, grayish green, sparsely puberulent with appressed, recurved hairs; latex white, copious. **Stems:** cylindric, 1–1.2 mm diameter (herbaceous stems), green and grayish glaucous, sparsely pubescent. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate with pair connected by 2 low ledges across node, with stipules; stipules 2, fused to stem, erect, narrowly triangular, < 0.6 mm long; petiole channeled, 1–1.5 mm long, pubescent; blade linear to narrowly lanceolate or narrowly triangular, 7.5–24 × 1.1–2.8 mm, cordate and slightly expanded or truncate to rounded at base, entire, acute and sometimes with short point at tip, pubescent, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** umbel-like cyme, terminal and axillary with only 1 cyme per node, cyme hemispheric, ca. 25 mm across, 4–8-flowered, bracteate, puberulent; peduncle < 20 mm long increasing slightly in fruit; bractlets subtending only outer pedicels, awl-shaped, 1–2 mm long, green with purplish red at base and tip, puberulent, abscising after pollination; pedicel 9–11 mm long and flexuous, increasing slightly and becoming rigid in fruit. **Flower:** bisex 1.1–1.3 mm, green aging purplish red, outer (lower) surface pubescent, inner surface glabrous; **corolla** deeply 5-lobed, rotate; tube short; lobes spreading at anthesis, ovate, 4.5–4.6 × 3.1–3.3 mm, purplish brown to pale yellow on margins, ciliate on margins, acute at tip, outer (lower) surface short-pubescent, inner surface glabrous; **stamens** 5, fused into column with filaments surrounding lower pistils but free from them while anthers completely fused to stigma as an enlarged stigmatic head (gynostegium), with a whorl of elaborate appendages (corona) arising from filament column; filament column fused at base to corolla tube, ca. 0.7 mm long, light yellowish green to greenish; corona of 5 spheric lobes alternate with corolla lobes, inflated, without an aperture, ca. 1.5 × 1.3–1.6 mm; anthers dithecal, ± trapeziform, < 1 mm long (broad at base), laterally winged, flat and fused to stigma except for wings and terminal appendage, dehiscent at top; anther sacs and connective yellowish green with a dark purple line on each sac near tip; lateral wing triangular, ca. 1.2 mm long, the widest at base, horny, light yellow on margin, appressed on sides (laterally) to adjacent wing of neighboring anther and forming a slit having a gland (corpusculum), the terminal appendages appressed to top of gynostegium, roundish to obovate, ca. 0.8 mm long, whitish with a dark purplish  $\Lambda$ -mark joining marks on anther, the 5 appendages forming a star-shaped aperture on top of gynostegium exposing the yellowish stigma; pollen united into pollinia, each pollinium sausage-shaped, ca. 0.7 × 0.15 mm, amber, united by orangey translator arms (ca. 0.15 mm long) to an orangey brown, ovoid corpusculum (ca. 0.3 mm long); **pistils** 2; ovaries superior, barely fused at base to free, ovoid but flattened on common side, ca. 0.75 mm long, green, 1-chambered with many ovules attached on inner side; styles free, ca. 0.5 mm long, green, fused at stigma (gynostegium); gynostegium capitate (includes some styler tissue), pentagonal, ca. 1 mm wide, the top slightly domed, purplish red on top. **Fruit:** follicle (typically only 1 ovary develops), dehiscent on inner side, many-seeded, lanceoloid, 60–70 × 5 mm, narrowly tapered to tip, pubescent, bearing seeds below midpoint, above midpoint filled only with long silky hairs. **Seed:** ovate and flattened, 5–5.3 × 2.5–2.6 mm, golden brownish, slightly wrinkled on convex side, minutely bumpy (tuberculate) and medially ridged on concave or flattish side, rounded at base, truncate at finely hairy tip, slightly winged on margins; hairs > 100, spreading, fine, 9–14 mm long, silky white, weakly united at base, deciduous. Early June–late July.

Native. A viney perennial herb known from the base of a ridge near Runyon Canyon (Hollywood Hills) and possibly also in Griffith Park. *Funastrum cynanchoides* is a species that occurs in the desert Southwest, typically inhabiting dry, rocky arroyos and rocky plains but also colonizing ditches around cultivated fields. It has all the characteristics of a milkweed, including opposite leaves exhibiting copious white latex when removed, and the flowers and follicles are miniaturized versions of *Asclepias*.

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