

***Hypericum canariense*** L., CANARY ISLANDS ST. JOHN'S WORT. Shrub, drought-deciduous, with spring growth of relatively long, unbranched, ascending axes each bearing a terminal inflorescence, in range 100–300 cm tall; shoots glabrous. **Stems:** 2-ridged, with a ridge descending from each leaf, ridges also present on pale brown young periderm. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile with pair of leaves having claspinglike bases (short-decurrent) and nearly touching, without stipules; blade narrowly elliptic to lanceolate, 23–85 × 8–18 mm, tapered at base, entire and also inrolled to lower surface along tapered base, acute at tip, pinnately veined with pinkish midrib raised on lower surface, having fine, netlike minor veins, minutely dotted (= internal secretory glands). **Inflorescence:** leafy, paniclelike dichasial cyme, terminal, with primary axis having a terminal cyme and often at the lowest node having opposite lateral cymes, each cyme with 1–several nodes, several–many-flowered, bracteate, glabrous; at subterminal node peduncle to 9 mm long; bracts subtending each node 2, leaflike, decreasing upward, upper bracts acuminate-ovate to lanceolate, the uppermost bracts 3–4 mm long, sometimes appearing like appressed bracteoles in bud; pedicel 5–6 mm long increasing in fruit, expanded and bell-shaped beneath flower. **Flower:** bisexual, radial but with asymmetric petals oriented in the same direction, 25–28 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, 3–4 mm long, green; tube ca. 1 mm long; lobes overlapping in bud, appressed, ± ovate to obovate, 2–2.8 mm long, midvein raised on outer surface, acute to obtuse at tip, with minute glandular teeth on margins; **petals** 5, spreading, essentially not overlapping at bases, asymmetrically narrowly obovate with clawlike base, 16–18 × 6–7 mm, bright yellow (orangish hue in bud), with the larger shoulder consistently on the same side for all petals within a flower, base 1.2–1.5 mm wide and glossy on lower side, limb finely veined, with inconspicuous stalked glandular hairs on the margin lacking a shoulder, persistent; **stamens** > 50 in 1 whorl, filaments weakly fused into column 2–2.5 mm long, persistent, unequal, ascending to erect, 5–10.5 mm long (tube + filament free portion), bright yellow; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ovate to somewhat roundish in outline, 0.6–1.4 mm long within each flower (scaling with filament length), paler yellow than filaments, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen vivid yellow; **nectaries** absent; **pistil** 1, 13–14 mm long; ovary superior, 3-lobed ovoid, ca. 4 mm long, glossy light green, glabrous, 3-chambered, each chamber with many ovules attached to center; styles 3, ascending and not touching at base, at anthesis exerted ca. 1 mm above the longest stamens, 7–8 mm long increasing 2× during early fruit development, orange-yellow; stigmas terminal, light green, densely papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, septical, 3-valved and dehiscent by 3 internal slits, many-seeded, ovoid, 7.5–12 × 5–6.5 mm including 3 conic beaks ca. 1.5 mm long, brown, before dehiscent golden yellow and having dry styles and somewhat covered by dry stamens. **Seed:** narrowly club-shaped to oblong, 1.1–1.5 × 0.25–0.4 mm, glistening orange-brown with whitish base, straight or slightly curved with conspicuous whitish rib forming ± straight edge, ca. 12 ribs on sides with bridges between them forming colored depressions, rounded to oblique or truncate at tip. Mid-May–late June.

Naturalized. Shrub first noted in late spring 2009 and barely established on the wildland-urban interface in Beverly Canyon and Temescal Canyon (SMM). *Hypericum canariense* has “golden” flowers, and this showy form is occasionally used in landscaping. This species, a native of the Canary Islands, resprouts when pruned to ground level, so it can

persist, but also individuals apparently produced from seeds have been observed. St. John's wort can be recognized by having minute dots on the leaves; these dots actually are internal secretory cavities containing hypericin or a similar compound. In *H. canariense* the dots are difficult to observe when backlighted and can only be verified with proper magnification, and they are never black, as in some species of *Hypericum*. The flower has five asymmetric petals spreading and oriented in the same manner, many unequal stamens fused into a staminal column, and a pistil with three styles and a glossy ovary mostly hidden by the filaments. Each fruit is packed with seeds, so this plant has a high potential reproductive capacity.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson