

Leptosiphon parviflorus Benth., COMMON LINANTHUS, VARIABLE LINANTHUS. Annual, taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, typically unbranched below inflorescence, ± erect, 5–35 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves but most leaves absent at flowering, conspicuously puberulent and short-hirsute. **Stems:** cylindric, < 1 mm diameter, wiry, aging reddish or purplish, with internodes increasing in length approaching canopy. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, deeply palmately dissected with (3–)5–7 lobes, sessile, with pair fused and sheathlike across node, without stipules; blade broadly ovate to semicircular in outline, 6–16(–28) mm long, lobes linear 5–13(–25) × 0.5–0.8 mm, entire, short-hairy especially on margins, with hard point at tip, 1-veined. **Inflorescence:** headlike of 1–several condensed cymes, terminal, 10–20 mm wide, 8–many-flowered, with sessile to subsessile flowers, bracteate, short-hairy; **involucre** of 2 bracts subtending head, opposite and fused at base, leaflike, > calyx of flowers, nonglandular short-hairy; cyme axis segments short, < 1 mm long, densely hairy mostly with stalked glandular hairs having yellowish heads; bractlet subtending flower 3-lobed (outer flowers) to unlobed (central flowers), to 10 mm long, central lobe > lateral lobes, short-hairy with glandular hairs mostly below lobes; pedicel 0–0.5 mm long, short-hairy. **Flower:** bisexual, radial; 8–9(–11) mm across, typically protogynous; **calyx** 5-lobed, 6–9 mm long, short-hirsute and glandular-hairy to midpoint of lobes; tube funnel-shaped, 1.5–4 mm long, above midpoint connected by narrow to obscure, translucent membranous panels (never red-purple), often splitting during fruit development, sometimes edging reddish next to membranous panels; lobes not overlapping, equal, narrowly lanceolate, 4–5 mm long, green aging reddish, puberulent and glandular-hairy, with margin short-ciliate and slightly membranous at base, hard-pointed at tip; **corolla** 5-lobed, long-trumpetlike (salverform), in bud lobes overlapping but not twisted; tube threadlike, in range 11–23 × < 0.3 mm, pinkish or yellowish aging reddish, enlarged at base around nectary and ovary, short-hairy and with scattered glandular hairs, internally with a ring of short hairs from top of tube to bases of filaments; throat bell-shaped, < 1 mm long, bright yellow lacking purple at base; lobes spreading, oblong to lanceolate, 3–4.5(–6) × 1.8–3 mm, in range white often with bright yellow at base, sometimes with purplish dots at base, entire; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla near base of throat alternate with corolla lobes, exerted; filaments equal, slender, 2–2.5 mm long, pale yellowish green; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 1–2.2 mm long (possibly = 2 forms, short and long), yellow, blunt arrow-shaped at base, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen bright yellow; **nectary disc** surrounding base of ovary, shallowly cupped and appressed, 0.3 mm long, green; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid, 1–1.3 mm long, green, glabrous, 3-chambered, each chamber packed with ovules attached to center; style exerted above corolla lobes, at anthesis ca. 5 mm long, bright yellow, 3-branched but initially twisted together, the stigmatic branches eventually ascending, linear, 1.5–4.5 mm long, elongating throughout the life of flower. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves and detaching (falling away from calyx), many-seeded, obovoid and shallowly 3-lobed, 3–4 × 1.5–1.8 mm, light tan, often top portion tinged red. **Seed:** oblong, 1.3–1.5 × 0.5–0.7 mm, tannish light brown, with several lengthwise, colorless ridges. Mid-March–mid-May.

Native. Annual occasionally found in dense local populations with grasses and native herbs in meadows and openings of coastal sage scrub (SMM and SH). *Leptosiphon parviflorus* is the correct name for plants in range that were formerly treated as *Linanthus*

androsacus (*Leptosiphon androsacus*), a close relative that does not have a densely hairy calyx. When flowering at midday, the white corolla lobes of *L. parviflorus* radiate from the throat, and the bright yellow anthers and stigma are erect and plug the center of the flower. A bee fly, having a long, extremely slender proboscis, may pollinate the flower; the flower has a long, narrow corolla tube provided with nectar from the small nectary surrounding the base of the ovary.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson