

Lithophragma cymbalaria Torrey & A. Gray, MISSION STAR. Perennial herb, bulblet-forming, rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, spreading to ascending, 15–60+ cm tall; shoots weak-stemmed, with mostly basal leaves and a pair of ± opposite cauline leaves subtending peduncle, thinly pubescent with short nonglandular and glandular hairs; bulblets (bulbils) several–many per plant, axillary in basal rosette (aerial bulbils) and also subterranean, ovoid, 1.5–2 mm long, purplish, solid, of aerial bulbils with several leaves arising from surface. **Stems:** cylindrical, < 1 mm diameter, green, sparsely glandular-hairy. **Leaves:** helically alternate and opposite (cauline leaves) with pair connected as low ledges across node, palmately 3-lobed or 5-lobed and occasionally palmately 3-foliolate (cauline leaves), petiolate, with stipules; stipules 2, wings attached to base of petiole, 2–4 mm long, membranous, veiny, fringed at tip; petiole cylindrical, 7–120 mm long, weak, sparsely short glandular-pubescent; blade ± kidney-shaped to heart-shaped, 6–21 × 10–26 mm, thin and easily wilting, cordate at base, lobes with shallow to deep sinuses (cauline leaves), truncate to rounded at lobe tip, palmately veined, short glandular-pubescent. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal and scapelike, several-flowered, bracteate, thinly glandular-pubescent; peduncle > 1/2 plant height, stemlike; bractlet subtending pedicel ≈ a pair of stipules, to 1.5 mm long; pedicel ascending, (4–)7–11 mm increasing to 15 mm long in fruit, flexible, densely short glandular-pubescent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 11 mm across; hypanthium funnel-shaped, 3 × 3 mm, green, densely short glandular-pubescent, 10-veined from base with raised veins, **nectary** at anthesis producing copious nectar; **sepals** 5, ascending, deltate, 1.5–2 mm, green or with purple margins, veiny, surfaces densely short glandular-pubescent, **petals** 5, clawed, white; claw channeled and wider approaching limb, 2 mm long; limb spreading, ovate-elliptic to obovate or fan-shaped (if 3-lobed), 5–6.5 × 2.5–4.5 mm, typically entire, lateral lobes (if present) < 1 mm long, finely 5-veined from base; **stamens** 10, free, arising on hypanthium rim; filaments of different lengths, erect, ± 1 mm long (opposite sepals) and ± 0.4 mm long (opposite and at base of petals), whitish, tapered to tip; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.8–1.1 mm long, yellow aging pink, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen vivid yellow; **pistil** 1, 2 mm long; ovary ± superior, fused to hypanthium below midpoint, conic, 1-chambered with many ovules attached to side; styles 3, erect, green; stigmas ± capitate. **Fruit:** capsule, septicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves, typically several-seeded, conic with persistent styles, ca. 4 mm long, thin-walled. **Seed:** ± D-shaped, 0.5–0.6 mm long, dull dark brown, densely spinescent with blunt projections in longitudinal rows. Mid-March–late April.

Native. Slender perennial herb only recently positively identified from the upper Malibu Springs trail, and at several other locations, e.g., SMMNRA Circle X Ranch.

Lithophragma cymbalaria has subterranean and aerial bulbils; it can be readily identified as the only woodstar with opposite cauline leaves, and, if fruits are available, the seed should be spiny. Otherwise the species must be distinguished from the common woodstar on the basis of small technical differences.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson