

Oenothera suffrutescens (Sér.) W. J. Wagner & Hoch, SCARLET GAURA, WILD-HONEYSUCKLE, LINDA TARDE. Subshrub, many-stemmed from a branched woody caudex, with ascending flowering branches, 30–90 cm tall; shoots with ascending to appressed cauline leaves, glabrous to short-strigose. **Stems:** cylindric, initially to 2.5 mm diameter, without a ridge descending from each leaf, green becoming brownish orange to grayish brown, woody stems \pm 8 mm diameter, on lower with smooth and satiny, light orange brown to light yellow surface after grayish brown skin peeling in strips (exfoliating), appearing glabrous; internodes solid. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, short-petiolate to sessile, without stipules; petiole 0–2 mm long, when short indistinct from base of blade; blade lanceolate to narrowly elliptic or oblanceolate (lower leaves) to linear to narrowly elliptic (upper leaves), 8–55(–70) \times 1.4–14(–20) mm, tapered to long-tapered at base, the largest blade sometimes with the lowest tooth becoming lobed to 4 mm long, entire to remotely and often asymmetrically serrate-dentate to dentate on margins with 1–4 teeth per side, acute at tip, pinnately veined with whitish midrib raised on lower surface, glabrous or at tip short-strigose, green becoming purplish red on teeth and at tip then extending on margins. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, with several-many helically alternate flowers, flowers spreading, bracteate; axis whiplike, 1–2 mm diameter, wiry; bractlet subtending pedicel incurved, lanceolate to ovate, 1–3 \times 0.8–1 mm, appressed at base; pedicel 0.5–2 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral by secondary orientation with petals spreading to upper side and stamens mostly on lower side, 13–20 mm across, closing by midmorning; hypanthium above ovary, inversely conic or sometimes slightly club-shaped, 3.5–4 mm long, 1.3–2.2 mm wide at orifice, short-strigose, internally pubescent at orifice, **nectary** at base of hypanthium surrounding style base; **sepals** 4, generally separate and at anthesis strongly reflexed, narrowly lanceolate, 11–13 \times 1.5–1.7 mm, sharply reflexed at base and curved outward and appearing linear with margins incurved except at base, green becoming reddish tinged, in bud short-strigose; **petals** 4, spreading, clawed, broadly spatulate, 7.5–12 mm long (including claw 2.5–3 mm long), deep pink becoming darker during the day; **stamens** 8 in 1 set, free, arising from hypanthium rim, monomorphic, each with a toothlike appendage (scale) at base on inner side, appendages together nearly closing orifice of hypanthium; filaments ascending, \pm narrowly club-shaped and flattened front-to-back, 6.5–8.5 \times 0.4–0.5 mm, white to pale yellow, glabrous; anthers exserted, versatile, dithecal, linear to linear-oblong, 3–4 \times 0.5–0.8 mm, strong red to purplish red with yellowish green connective, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow, pollen grains 3-pointed, held in a mass by minute threads (viscin threads); **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, ascending, cylindric-fusiform, 6.5–7.8 \times 0.8–0.9 mm, glabrous, 4-chambered, each chamber with 1 pendulous ovule, having membranous septum between chambers becoming 1-chambered in fruit; style exserted, cylindric, 14.2–15.5 mm long, light green below and white to pale orange-pink above where pubescent, with thin disc below stigma lobes; stigma conspicuously 4-lobed, lobes spreading, sausage-shaped, 0.5–1.3 mm long, light yellow. **Fruit:** nutletlike, indehiscent capsule, 1–2-seeded, fusiform, 9–10 \times 1.5–2.8 mm, in \times -section 4-lobed, narrowly grooved between lobes, glabrous. **Seed:** ellipsoid, 2.5–3.3 \times 1–1.3 mm, light yellow to tawny. Mid-August–early October.

Naturalized. Subshrub dominant in one small plot of introduced grasses near road entrance to Rancho Sierra Vista SMMNRA and flowering during drought in late summer and early fall. *Oenothera suffrutescens*, a form of gaura, seems to be the best name for the local population, including the synonym *O. coccinea* var. *glabra*. Although being native to California, *O. suffrutescens* probably should be regarded as introduced in range. To date, this species, considered by some as a noxious weed, has shown no tendency to spread from the one known location.

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