

Parietaria hespera B. D. Hinton, RILLITA PELLITORY, CALIFORNIA PELLITORY. Annual, taprooted, 1–many-stemmed at base, spreading or decumbent, in range < 15 cm tall, to 55 cm long; in range polygamous (bisexual and pistillate flowers on the same plant, occasionally also staminate flowers); shoots weak-stemmed and leaves easily wilted, pilose and lacking stinging hairs. **Stems:** with inconspicuously flattened sides, ± 1 mm diameter, greenish becoming translucent-white or with faint purplish stripes. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole cylindric, 3–9 mm long, as long as blade, translucent-white to pale pink, with bulbous swelling 0.5 mm above base; blade ovate to roundish or lanceolate, 3–9 × 3–9 mm, thin, ± truncate to rounded at base, entire, obtuse to rounded at tip (acute if lanceolate), pinnately veined with a conspicuous midrib and also a pair of lateral veins at leaf base, midrib conspicuously raised on lower surface, ± pilose, lower surface sometimes with shorter hairs. **Inflorescence:** cyme, axillary, sessile, 1–2-flowered, of 1 pistillate flower, 1 bisexual flower, or 1 bisexual flower + 1 pistillate flower (also expect 1 staminate flower + 1 pistillate flower), bracteate, ± pilose; bracts and bractlets subtending each cyme typically 3(5), unequal, narrowly elliptic to narrowly oblanceolate, 1–1.5 mm long, the longest bract to 0.5 mm wide, green with colorless midvein. **Bisexual flower:** radial, 1.5 mm across; **calyx** 4-lobed; tube very short; lobes either erect or spreading to recurved, awl-shaped, 1 mm long, cupped below midpoint, acute-acuminate at tip, in bud nearly colorless and revealing anthers, aging dark reddish brown in fruit; **petals** absent; **stamens** (2)4, free, opposite calyx lobes, in bud held between pistil and calyx lobe (inflexed); filaments ca. 1 mm long, colorless, above midpoint with raised, jointed segments, initially folded in half then springing up and ascending to discharge pollen; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.2 mm long, whitish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish, dry; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ellipsoid, 0.7 mm long, colorless, glossy and smooth, 1-chambered with 1 pendent ovule; style absent; stigma hair-tufted. **Staminate flower:** (if present) radial, 1.5 mm across; **petals** absent; **stamens** (2)4, free, opposite calyx lobes, in bud held between pistil and calyx lobe (inflexed); filaments ca. 1 mm long, colorless, above midpoint with raised, jointed segments, initially folded in half then springing up and ascending to discharge pollen; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.2 mm long, whitish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish, dry; **pistil** absent. **Pistillate flower:** ± radial, < 1 mm across; **calyx** 4-lobed, fused nearly to tip forming a very narrow opening, green, covered with hooked hairs; **petals** absent; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid compressed side-to-side, 0.4 mm long; style absent; stigma hair-tufted. **Fruit:** achene, laterally flattened and lenticular-ovoid, glossy brownish, obtuse at tip; enclosed in membranous calyx. Late January–early May.

Native. Annual occasionally encountered during wet springtime in shaded southern oak woodland of SMM. *Parietaria hespera* is typically treated as having two varieties, with the typical var. *hespera* possessing blades longer than wide and having erect calyx lobes, and var. *californica* B. D. Hinton possessing blades mostly roundish and with spreading to reflexed calyx lobes. Both leaf forms and calyx forms occur in range, but calyx and leaf features do not always match correctly. Moreover, pistillate flowers are commonly seen in range but are not mentioned in standard descriptions. This indicates that the species needs better field studies, and that this may necessitate a critical review and clarification of varietal status.

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