

Peritoma arborea (Nutt.) Iltis var. *arborea*, BLADDERPOD. Shrub, evergreen, several-many-stemmed at base, highly branched, in range 50–200 cm tall; shoots gray-green, canescent with dense, short hairs, somewhat ill-smelling with sulfurous chemicals. **Stems:** cylindric, densely hairy becoming glabrate with tan periderm by year 2. **Leaves:** helically alternate, 3-foliolate and petiolate but 1-foliolate and sessile approaching inflorescence, without stipules; petiole 10–30 mm long; petiolule < 2 mm long, when 1-foliolate with projecting leaf base; blades of leaflets oblong to elliptic or oblanceolate, 15–45 × 4–12 mm, thick, folded upward from midrib, grayish and glaucous, entire, rounded to truncate with short point at tip, pinnately veined with conspicuous midrib raised on lower surface but other veins obscure, mature surfaces with scattered short hairs. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, ascending to spreading, 60–300 mm long, many-flowered, bracteate, distinctly canescent on axes and calyx; bract subtending peduncle leaflike; axis ridged with ridges descending from each leaf and bract base, purplish when young; bractlet subtending pedicel = small 1-foliolate leaf; pedicel 6–15 mm long, canescent, becoming decurved in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ± 15 mm across; **calyx** 4-lobed, 4–7 mm long, often deeply split between 2 lobes, green, pubescent with scattered, short hairs; tube bell-shaped, 1.5–3 × 3–4.5 mm, rounded to ± truncate at base; lobes deltate or acuminate-triangular, 3–3.5 × 1.5–2.5 mm, entire or occasionally with indistinct teeth; **petals** 4, spreading unequally, lanceolate to ovate, 8–14 × 4–5 mm, bright yellow; **nectary disc** well-developed, elevated on an elongated receptacle, ± ringlike, 4–5 mm diameter with a short nonglandular lobe, green, the lobe 1–1.5 × 2–2.5 mm, short-hairy and irregularly toothed at tip; **stamens** 6, free, arising from nectary, long-exserted; filaments (10–)13–17(–20) mm long, yellow, glabrous; anthers basifixed, dithecal, straight to ± bananalike (coiling upon drying), 3.5–5.5 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen orange-yellow; **pistil** 1, borne on hair-bearing stalk (gynophore) from top of nectary; at anthesis gynophore < 10 mm long, increasing so ovary becomes long-exserted as fruit matures, short-pilose; ovary superior, narrowly ovoid slightly compressed, at anthesis ca. 1.5 × 0.7 mm, light green, with 2 vertical lines of short hairs, 1-chambered with many ovules formed in 2 rows along septum; style short; stigma minute. **Fruit:** capsule, pendulous, borne on a long gynophore, tardily dehiscent by 2 valves, typically < 12-seeded, inflated, broadly fusiform-ellipsoid or obovoid to oblong, (25–)30–45(–50) × 9–20 mm with a fine tip, greenish, glaucous; gynophore stout, recurved, to 15 mm long. **Seed:** spheroid with pointed base, 5–7 mm, slightly compressed, smooth, brown (yellowish).
January–December.

Native. Shrub occasionally observed in the fog zone of coastal sage scrub from Malibu westward along the bluffs of the immediate coast and then inland to easternmost Camarillo and other scattered coastal sage scrub sites, e.g., at Wildwood Regional Park in Thousand Oaks (SH). Its grayish, three-foliolate leaves have a sulfurous smell due to the presence of mustard oils (glucosinolates) produced in special cells. *Peritoma arborea*, formerly known as *Isomeris arborea* or *Cleome isomeris*, has a well-developed, stalklike gynophore beneath the ovary. That gynophore, along with the long-exserted stamens and abundant nectar, are adaptations for animal pollination. Somewhere in range one can find plants blooming during any week of the year. Bladderpod refers to the inflated, pendent capsule of this genus, which resembles a fat legume pod and contains seeds ± the size of small

peas. It is possible that variety *globosa* occurs within range, and to be considered for that presumed variety, the fruits need to be subspheroidal and more strongly inflated than the typical form.

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