

Persicaria maculosa S. Gray, SPOTTED LADY'S-THUMB. Annual, taprooted and fibrous-rooted, with weak spreading branches from an ascending to erect shoot, on a stolonlike, prostrate stem, in range 20–90 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, in range with or without a central, light purplish red triangular to crescent-shaped blotch on upper surface of blade, short-hairy or aging glabrescent, \pm not gland-dotted; adventitious roots at nodes of prostrate stem. **Stems:** cylindric, to 10 mm diameter, distinctly swollen just above each node, internodes to 80 mm long, reddish to orangey brown without purplish red spots, not markedly bent at nodes, glabrous; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules (2) fused into cylinder and sheathing stem (ocrea), basally fused to margins of petioles and typically with stem between petiole margins, 11–21 mm long, truncate, membranous and light brown becoming brittle and fracturing, ciliate on margin with hairs 0.8–1.5(–3) mm long, with 8–9 parallel veins above midpoint, glabrous or strigose (becoming glabrate) with hairs along and between veins; petiole hemi-cylindric or slightly channeled, 5–15 mm long, flared at base fully to $2/3$ encircling stem, glabrous or sparsely strigose on margin approaching blade; blade narrowly lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, in range 50–200 \times 9–36 mm, flat, long-tapered at base, entire and strigose-ciliate, acuminate at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly raised on upper surface and conspicuously raised on lower surface, upper surface glabrous and with blotch fading in age, lower surface sparsely pubescent and with some inconspicuous glandular dots. **Inflorescence:** spikelike panicle of condensed cymes, terminal or axillary, ascending, with 2–3 branches, inflorescence in range 50–105 mm long, each branch cylindric, 12–45 \times 6–8 mm, of 8–30 cymes, \pm uninterrupted and dense, cymes 3–9-flowered, bracteate, lacking glandular hairs and glandular dots; bract subtending the peduncle leaflike and with ocrea; bract of second fork awl-shaped and with ocrea, ca. 7 \times 0.3 mm, nearly of uniform width but slight wider at base and gradually tapered at tip, orangey brown, below midpoint fused with ocrea; axis of branches 3–25 mm long, increasing upward, green and strigose becoming brownish and glabrate, overtopping along rachis; bractlet subtending pedicel sheathing and membranous like ocrea, 2-forked; pedicel \pm erect to ascending, at anthesis 1–1.5 mm long increasing ca. 2 \times in fruit, light green aging orangish, triangular in \times -section to semicircular or elliptic at expanded tip, glabrous. **Flower:** bisexual, \pm radial, open, 2.5–3 mm across; buds pink to rose; **perianth** 5-lobed in 2 whorls, at anthesis 1.5–2.3 mm long increasing to 3 mm long in fruit, lacking glandular dots; tube funnel-shaped, 0.6–1 mm long, green; lobes (tepals) overlapping, cupped-ovate to cupped-roundish, 1.1–1.4 mm long, white becoming pinkish at base; **nectaries** 6–8, fused to perianth tube, each tonguelike, 0.1–0.2 mm long, pale yellow to pale yellow-green, **stamens** 8 in 2 whorls, lower whorl fused at midpoint to perianth tube or slightly higher, upper whorl fused to perianth tube at or slightly below sinuses; filaments of 2 length, 1–1.2 mm long (lower whorl) and 0.5–0.7 mm long (upper whorl), white; anthers dorsifixed-versatile, dithecal, 0.3–0.5 mm long, white and sometimes becoming purplish pink, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** 1, 1.6–1.8 mm long; ovary superior, compressed-ovoid or 3-sided (on same inflorescence), 0.6–0.7 \times 0.5–0.65 mm, greenish, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, fused at base, 1–1.1 mm long, white, the branches 0.3–0.6 mm long; stigmas capitate, inversely conic, orangish, finely papillate on upper surface. **Fruit:** achene, compressed-spheroid and 3-sided (on same plant), 2–2.4 \times 1.7–1.9 \times 0.9–1 mm (ovoid fruits) and \times 1.3–1.7 mm (of faces on 3-sided fruits), glossy dark brown to black, smooth; enclosed by creamy white, persistent perianth at maturity. Early July–mid-September.

Naturalized. Annual rarely encountered at isolated wet sites in the Hollywood Hills, e.g., in Franklin Canyon, and also Conejo Creek on the western boundary. *Persicaria maculosa*, often treated as a form of *P. hydropiperoides*, lacks glandular dots on the perianth, and appears pink to rose in bud but has white flowers. This plant is called spotted lady's thumb because it should have

a purplish red mark in the center of the upper surface of the blade, but in range this feature is not present on every leaf and the mark fades. On a single plant there are two fruit shapes.

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