

Pickeringia montana Nutt. var. *montana*, CHAPARRAL PEA. Shrub, evergreen, spinescent, clump-forming via rhizomes, highly branched along main axes forming determinate lateral shoots to 90 mm long, 100–250 cm tall; shoots with a 3-dimensional design of rigid, spine-tipped, photosynthetic stems (= stem spines) and small, stiff leaves on main and lateral axes, short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs. **Stems:** cylindric, green and slightly canescent due to transparent hairs. **Leaves:** helically alternate, palmately 3-foliolate (2-foliolate or rarely also 1-foliolate and resembling a simple leaf), short-petiolate without pulvinus, without obvious stipules; stipules reduced to 2 red patches at base of petiole; petiole cylindric, 2–3 mm long, densely short-strigose, persistent after leaflets abscise; petiolules 1.5–2 mm long, resembling petiole; blades of leaflets typically obovate or oblanceolate to elliptic, 5–20 × < 10 mm, folded upward from tough midrib, entire, acute with sharp point at tip, pinnately veined with faint lateral veins, upper surface glossy dark green, sparsely short-strigose, lower surface densely hairy. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal and axillary, several–20-flowered, bracteate, short-strigose; bract subtending peduncle leaflike; peduncle to 5 mm long; bractlet subtending pedicel ± leaflike (for the lowest flowers) and 1-foliolate or 3-foliolate to slender and highly reduced; pedicel 2–5 mm long, with ca. 2 linear bracteoles along pedicel. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, pealike (papilionaceous), 14–16 mm across, unscented; **nectary** receptacle, cup-shaped, ± 2.5 mm long, asymmetric, short-strigose, nectar-producing below ovary; **calyx** shallowly 5-lobed, ca. 5 mm long, purple, short-strigose; tube cylindric; lobes erect, unequal, acute, ± 1 mm long; **petals** 5, deep rose to magenta, clawed, the claws 4–5 mm long, thick and stiff, flattened front-to-back; banner limb spreading, roundish, 14–16 mm long, with a tan and brown blotch at base, truncate or half-cordate at base, notched at tip, with many lines radiating from midrib; wings 2, arching forward, limbs oblong, ± 15 × 8 mm, with unequal basal lobes, rounded at tip; keel petals 2 and not fused, resembling wings but cupped, ± 15 × 10 mm; **stamens** 10 in 2 indistinct whorls, essentially free at base, arising from top of hypanthiumlike receptacle; filaments 6–18 mm long, unequal within flower, pinkish, above midpoint somewhat arched upward; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ± 1.7 mm, maroon, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish; **pistil** 1, short-stalked (stipe), stipe 3–4 mm long; ovary superior, oblong-linear compressed side-to-side, ca. 10 × 1.5 mm, densely white short-strigose; style 4–5 mm long, gradually tapered to tip and strongly curved upward; stigma minute, capitate. **Fruit:** pod (legume), dehiscent, 1–8-seeded, oblong, 30–55 × 4–5 mm, slightly narrowed between seeds, short-strigose. Late March–early May.

Native. Shrub rarely found in chaparral, here growing only on sandstone outcrops at several scattered locations along the ridge crest of SMM. The habitat where *Pickeringia montana* persists is also ideal for homesites that present perfect ocean views, or the populations mostly are growing close to homes and must be removed for brush clearance, hence, this species is greatly threatened locally. Chaparral pea has rigid, photosynthetic, spine-tipped branches. Its flowers are brilliantly colored for hummingbirds, but our population does not appear to form fruits. This is one of the few legumes in the flora in which the stamens are essentially not fused, and the filaments are distinctly unequal.
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