

Salvia apiana Jepson, WHITE SAGE. Shrub, drought-deciduous, many-stemmed at base, from the base ascending to form erect, unbranched spring shoots, each having a terminal inflorescence, to 250 cm tall; shoots conspicuously grayish, densely short-tomentose and glandular with colorless spheric hairs aging yellow, strongly aromatic with a slightly fetid odor. **Stems:** cylindric, becoming purplish red on exposed sides, internodes 50–105 mm long; internodes hollow. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate to short-petiolate with pair fused across node (curved to straight ledges), without stipules; petiole typically channeled, 5–30 mm long, grayish white; blade ovate to widely lanceolate, (25–)40–120 × (10–)20–65 mm, broadly tapered at base, short-crenate on margins, acute (obtusate) at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, densely pubescent, lower surface with elaborate minor vein network outlining sunken tissue, sometimes purplish red along midrib. **Inflorescence:** cymes in a complex, terminal array, the flowering axis erect and starting with widely spaced, opposite decussate cauline leaves, 150–1500 mm long, having 8–20+ nodes, with internodes length and leaf sizes decreasing upward, axillary branches 2 and equal per node (the terminal several nodes of flowering axis = paired cymes); axillary branches ascending, to 120 × 10–15 mm, forming 1–several vegetative nodes and then a paniclelike array with cymes paired at each node (sometimes also having pairs of secondary axillary branchlets), to 16 nodes per branch, each pair of cymes not condensed (not verticillate), each cyme to 6-flowered (often 2-flowered and 3-flowered), bracteate, densely low-tomentose and glandular-hairy; axes 4-sided, stemlike; bract subtending cyme leaflike but sessile, narrowly lanceolate, 6–10 mm long; bractlet subtending pedicel or flower narrowly lanceolate, to 6 mm long; pedicel at anthesis short, to 2 mm long in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, strongly bilateral, 5–8 mm across (to 17 mm across with divergent stamens); **calyx** 2-lipped, 7–10 mm long, densely tomentose and glandular-hairy, internally with minute hairs on lips, lips often aging reddish purple; tube narrowly conic, 4–4.5 mm long, 10-veined; upper lip ± hoodlike and slightly compressed side-to-side, 2–2.3 mm long with sinus > sinuses of lips, truncate and minutely 2-toothed, acute, or notched at tip with short point; lower lip 2-lobed, 1.5–1.8 mm long, lobes sharp-tipped acuminate; **corolla** unequally 2-lipped, very pale violet to whitish; tube + throat inversely conic, 5.5–6 mm long, upper side of throat abruptly indented to form a palate nearly closing orifice, internally with some tomentose to villous whitish hairs 2.5–3 mm from base (not a dense ring) separating tube from throat; upper lip semicircular, ca. 1 × 2 mm, arching upward, cupped and with some villous hairs on back, villous-ciliate on margin above midpoint; lower lip 3–4-lobed, 9–10 mm long, bent over upper lip toward calyx hood, lateral lobes 5.5–6 × ± 2 mm, rounded at tip, central lobe obovate typically with 3 sublobes, 4.5 × 4 mm, sometimes strong purple at base, cupped upward, surfaces in part white-tomentose to villous; **stamens** 2, fused to corolla near base of lower lip below sinuses, strongly exerted; filaments 4–5 mm long, white, glabrous; anther with 1 sac on arching connective ca. 8 mm long (resembling filament color), sac oblong-elliptic, 2–2.5 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light to pale yellow, sticky; **nectary disc** = unequally lobed base beneath ovary, 1.2 mm across, 0.7 mm long, light green; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, strongly 4-lobed, lobes unequal, ovoid, ca. 0.6 × 0.4 mm, 1 lobe much larger than others, green, 2-chambered, each lobe with 1 ovule; style attached to ovary base at center of ovary lobes (gynobasic), long-exserted straight next to upper lip, 21–23 mm long, white at base and purple above midpoint, glabrous, unequally 2-branched,

the branches initially appressed later spreading. **Fruits:** nutlets, 1–4, oblong to ellipsoid, 2.5–3.9 × 1.4–2.1 mm, brown with or without lighter background to reveal dots and lines, 2-sided or 3-sided, rounded on outer face. Late April–mid-July.

Native. Strongly and somewhat offensively aromatic shrub of coastal sage scrub growing in small, localized patches, often on exposed roadcuts. *Salvia apiana*, called white sage, has gray foliage and whitish flowers. The plant becomes dormant during summer, but it is easy to recognize by the persistent, erect reproductive axes, which may be a meter and a half long. The next spring a new set of shoots is produced at the base of the plant. This species has paired cymes, but they are not formed into condensed, congested verticils, as in most Lamiaceae. The corolla is distinctive because the upper lip is highly reduced and the lower lip is bent over it to more or less close the orifice, so that a pollinator has to force its way into the tube to obtain nectar. Many flowers never produce fruits, and in range some populations appear to have very low seed set.

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