

*Salvia spathacea* Greene, PITCHER SAGE, HUMMINGBIRD SAGE. Perennial herb, colonial, rhizomatous, decumbent to erect with erect flowering stalks 50–120 cm tall; shoots with congested basal leaves and widely spaced cauline leaves, covered with erect-pubescent to villous nonglandular hairs and glandular hairs pilose (villous), pubescent, or unstalked, the heads of stalked hairs spheric aging transparent orange, the heads of sessile hairs milky to creamy yellow. **Stems:** ± 4-sided, to 10 mm diameter, green, internodes short at base (< 15 mm long) to 110 mm long above, glandular-hairy with stalked hairs and scattered spheric hairs. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate to sessile just below inflorescence, upper cauline leaves clasping-lobed with pair often fused across node, without stipules; petiole channeled and narrowly winged, < 100 mm long, pale green or pinkish but with green wings broader at base, nonglandular-hairy and glandular-hairy, at base nonglandular-sericeous on upper side; blade oblong-triangular or with spreading basal lobes (oblong-hastate) to lanceolate, 60–200 × 15–85 mm, truncate to truncate-hastate at base, crenate on margins, rounded at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins raised on lower surface, upper surface cobblestonelike and erect-pubescent and with short-stalked glandular hairs, lower surface mostly whitish villous to tomentose and having many sessile spheric hairs but pilose-glandular along veins. **Inflorescence:** condensed cymes, axillary in congested, headlike clusters of 2 per node (verticils), produced as a flowering axis 70–300 mm long terminating each shoot, with 1–6 widely spaced verticils on erect peduncle, verticil 50–60 mm across, each cyme to 10-flowered, bracteate, densely glandular-pubescent and viscid; bracts subtending each cyme triangular-ovate, 30–60 mm long, green at the lowest node grading to purplish or brownish above, reddish to brownish veined, acuminate without awn at tip, densely glandular-hairy; inner bracts subtending cyme branchlets and bractlet subtending pedicel of the outermost flowers, lanceolate, 10–30 mm long, decreasing upward, bractlet absent below pedicels of the innermost flowers; pedicel 0–5 mm long, pale green to whitish, pubescent with finely stalked hairs to stout, short-stalked glandular hairs having spheric heads. **Flower:** bisexual, strongly bilateral, 7–10 × 15–19 mm across, to 35 mm long; **calyx** 2-lipped, 15–30 mm long, glandular-pubescent on exposed surfaces, lacking awns; tube 14–15-ribbed; lips reddish to purplish, upper lip minutely 3-toothed (central tooth sometimes inconspicuous) to acute, folded upward from midline; lower lip generally 2-lobed, split to or below midpoint, lobes toothlike, acuminate, 0.5–5 mm long; **corolla** 2-lipped, 5-lobed, 25–35 mm long, purplish red to rose, crimson, pink or salmon, ± glossy; tube cylindric, ca. 1/3 corolla length, mostly white but reddish below throat, glabrous; throat gradually expanded, ca. 1/2–3/5 corolla length, same color as lips, glabrous; upper lip ascending, shallowly 2-lobed or notched, (4–)5–8 mm long, glabrous or minutely glandular-pubescent on lower surface; lower lip 3-lobed, lateral lobes spreading, oblong, 1.5–3 × 4.5–7 mm, (length < width), glabrous or sometimes minutely pubescent on lower surface near margin, central lobe descending to reflexed, cupped-oblate, 5–7 × 7–10 mm, broadly clawed for 1 mm and notched on outer margin, glabrous; **stamens** 4, upper 2 stamens sterile, attached near top of corolla throat below sinus between lips, < 3 mm long, the lower 2 stamens strongly exerted and fertile; filaments of fertile stamens attached to corolla throat below lateral lobes of lower lip, 7–10 mm long, whitish or pinkish but purplish red at oblique tip where attaches to elongated connective of anthers; anther with 2 sacs widely separated by filamentlike connective, arching, 8–16 mm long, dark reddish purple, the lower end with a narrow projection 1.7–3

mm long that sometimes bears a rudimentary but sterile anther sac, the long upper arm bearing a fertile anther sac, anther sac linear but arching and becoming hooked at tip after dehiscence, 3.5–5 mm long, purplish to brownish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellowish to whitish; **nectary disc** beneath ovary base to lower side, obovoid to depressed-ovate, 1.8–3 × 2–3.7 mm, greenish white to yellowish, producing copious nectar; **pistil** 1, situated to upper side of nectary; ovary superior, strongly 4-lobed, lobes compressed-obovoid to short club-shaped or oblong and somewhat triangular in  $\times$ -section, 1–1.4 mm long, glossy greenish, 2-chambered, each lobe with 1 ovule; style attached to ovary base at center of ovary lobes (gynobasic), exserted, 37–49 mm long, white at base to dark purplish red above, glabrous, unequally 2-branched, the lower branch descending, 1.5–3.5 mm long, the upper branch curved, 2.5–4.5 mm long, stigmatic branches purplish to brownish. **Fruits:** nutlets, 4, obovoid and  $\pm$  3-sided at least at base, 3.5–7 × 3–5.5 mm, dull brown or grayish brown to black, low-convex on outer face and  $\pm$  wedge-shaped on inner face, broadly tapered to rounded or truncate at base, broadly round to truncate at top; sometimes cover fracturing irregularly to reveal yellowish ochre seed. Late February (January in cultivation)–late June.

Native. Colonial perennial herb occurring in southern oak woodland and tall chaparral away from the immediate coast, often in partial shade. *Salvia spathacea* is a strongly aromatic plant because all green structures are covered with stalked to sessile glandular hairs. This is the only local member of the mint family that mostly has crimson flowers, hence are highly attractive to hummingbirds, although corolla colors varies, including a clone with pink flowers, which may be worthy of bringing into cultivation. Nutlets of this species are comparatively large for *Salvia* as well as other local Lamiaceae.

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