

*Senna artemisioides* (DC.) B. R. Randell, SILVER CASSIA. Shrub, evergreen, unarmed, much-branched with mostly ascending shoots, in range 30–140 cm tall; shoots gray-green, densely short-strigose and with scattered and inconspicuous glandular hairs. **Stems:** cylindrical, inconspicuously zigzagged, ash white, internodes typically 9–15(–35) mm long, to 50 mm long for first internode on axillary shoot. **Leaves:** helically alternate, even-1-pinnately compound, in range with 3–6 pairs of lateral leaflets spaced 1.7–4.6 mm apart along rachis, petiolate without pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to stem and leaf base, awl-shaped, 1.5–2(–3) mm long, pale green portion early-deciduous with a minute persistent base and having an axillary tuft of reddish purple hairs; petiole 8–12 mm long; rachis 13–23 mm long, extended 0.5–1 mm beyond the uppermost pair of leaflets, with purplish to almost black short hairs between paired primary leaflets, in range with an extrafloral nectary (gland) at base of the lowest pair of leaflets, the extrafloral nectary dome to turnip-shaped, green aging red; stipel subtending leaflet absent; petiolule absent; blades of leaflets arched-ascending from rachis, linear-subcylindric, in range 13–45 × ± 1 mm, ± equal on a leaf or the shortest ones at tip, deeply channeled on upper side (= facing other leaflet), basal 0.5 mm whitish and ± pulvinuslike, entire, rounded at tip, venation obscure, dull, silvery hairy with fine short-strigose hairs. **Inflorescence:** raceme, axillary, in range 8–13-flowered (typically 8), flowers helically alternate (the basal ones often appearing opposite or pseudowhorled), bracteate, densely short-strigose and with minute, inconspicuous glandular hairs; peduncle 6–25 mm long; rachis ascending, 3–9 mm long; bractlet subtending pedicel spreading, cupped-ovate, 1.5–2.5 mm long, yellowish, deciduous leaving a persistent knob; pedicel 6–12 mm long at anthesis and in fruit, sometimes aging glabrescent, expanded at tip with the expanded receptacle, rarely with 1 minute, early-deciduous bracteole near midpoint of pedicel. **Flower:** bisexual, slightly bilateral, 15–18 mm across; **nectary** nectar-producing receptacle below ovary; **sepals** 5, heteromorphic, abscised only after fruit begins to grow, unequal, cupped-ovate or cupped-oblong, 2.5–5 × 1.5–2.8 mm, progressively larger from the outermost to the innermost, short-strigose, ciliate with wavy hairs on margins, outer 2 sepals short and hoodlike, green or becoming yellow, short-strigose, inner sepals petal-like, bright yellow, less hairy; **petals** 5(–6), cupped-ascending, typically not spreading and corolla not dishlike, short-clawed, ± subequal with banner somewhat wider; claws 1–1.5 mm long; limbs obovate to subroundish, 7–10 × 5–8 mm, bright yellow and sometimes with faint reddish pinnate venation; **stamens** 10, free, heteromorphic of 2 or 3 sizes, all appearing fertile; filaments cylindrical, of different lengths, yellow; the lower 3 stamens with asymmetrically sigmoid filaments 3.5–4 × 0.8 mm and anthers 4–4.5 mm long, 2 with filaments 2.5–3 × 0.5 mm and anthers 3.5–4 mm long, other 5 stamens with filaments 1–1.5 × 0.5 mm and anthers 2.5–3.3 mm long; anthers basifixed, dithecal, arrow-shaped at base, curved inward, brownish, with longitudinal ribs on each sac on each side of a dehiscence zone not opening or tardily dehiscent from base upward; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, short-stalked (stipe), stipe at anthesis ca. 1.5 mm long increasing 2–3× in fruit, pubescent at base; ovary superior, compressed sickle-shaped, incurved and arched over the longest stamens, glabrous, 1-chambered with ca. 20 ovules attached to upper side; style 0.5 mm long, with a few short hairs at top on rim of stigma; stigma terminal, concave, green turning reddish. **Fruit:** legume (pod), dry, dehiscent, 10–18-seeded, oblong-linear, ± straight to somewhat curled, in range 52–95 × 5.5–9 mm, flat, glossy dark brown, valves like thick paper with

vertical septa visible on surface. **Seed:** obovate-oblong, 6–8 × 3–4 mm, thin, glossy brown with less glossy central region on both faces, the central region narrowly oblong, 2–3 mm long; hilum laterally subbasal. Late January–mid-May.

Naturalized. Shrub in 2006 observed escaping along Decker Road (SMM) and showing the possibility of spreading farther by having fruits with many viable seeds. *Senna artemisioides* is now considered to be a taxonomic dumping ground for many different forms arising from interspecific hybrids in Australia, so that our local plants likely represent a form species with features from its cultivated parent here in southern California.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson