

Silene laciniata Cav. subsp. *laciniata*, INDIAN PINK, MEXICAN CHAMPION. Perennial herb, thick-taprooted with a branched (unbranched) caudex, 1–several-stemmed at base, main axis unbranched until first flowering, ascending to spreading or reclining and decumbent, 30–70 cm tall; shoots sparsely short-hairy to midplant and glandular-pubescent approaching and on inflorescence. **Stems:** cylindric, < 4 mm diameter, conspicuously swollen at nodes and adjacent lower internodes, internodes to 50 mm long, easily detached at nodes (jointed), often deep red-purple on lower stem, ± short-strigose with downward-pointing hairs, the uppermost stem short glandular-pubescent. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate (most leaves) and sessile with pair fused around stem forming sheath over swollen node, without stipules; petiole narrowly winged and indistinct from blade, to 10 mm long, ciliate with crooked hairs on margins; blade linear-narrowly oblanceolate or narrowly elliptic-linear, 20–115 × 2–5.5 mm, entire but margins often somewhat inrolled to under side (revolute), blunt acute at narrow tip, pinnately veined with midrib sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, sparsely short-hairy. **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme, terminal, open, several–9+–flowered, bracteate, densely glandular-puberulent; peduncle and inflorescence axes cylindric, internodes to 110 mm long, green and densely glandular-pubescent, with bulbous, whitish swelling at base of each internode forcing branch axes to diverge; bracts on node at fork 2 and opposite (bract subtending each potential branch), leaflike but reduced upward, lower bracts linear to elliptic-linear, upper bracts lanceolate, reduced to 5 mm long; bractlet subtending pedicel absent; pedicel 5–40+ mm long, often purple-red. **Flower:** bisexual, ± radial, 23–29 mm across, oriented horizontal and having anthers shifted to lower half; **calyx** 5-lobed, uniformly and densely short glandular-pubescent, often tinged reddish by glandular hairs having bulbous red bases; tube cylindric, 12–26 × 3.5–6 mm broadening in fruit, membranous with 10 green to reddish veins, lobes subequal to unequal, deltate to triangular-ovate, 2–4.5 mm long, with rose-membranous margins the widest above midpoint and glandular-ciliate; **petals** 5, long-clawed with thick bases fused to bases of outer stamens, claw linear, ≥ calyx tube, to 17 mm long, narrow at base and then 2 mm wide with parallel margins, membranous pale green but by anthesis approaching limb blushed pinkish to weak scarlet, with several reddish parallel veins, ciliate on margins only above narrow base, adherent to calyx with sticky substance, base puberulent and persistent; limb spreading ⊥ claw, in range with 3–4 deep, linear or oblong to narrowly lanceolate lobes, 9–13 × 4.3–5 mm, scarlet with slightly darker veins, the lobes unequal, 4–10 mm long, outer lobe or lobes < middle 2 lobes, wide lobes sometimes with a small tooth near tip; appendages at limb base 2, somewhat descending on upper claw, raised and somewhat ascended from limb, squarish to wedge-shaped, 1.5–2 mm long, ± glossy light scarlet, with 2–5 teeth on truncate to oblique tip; **stamens** 10 in 2 whorls, all fused at bases and outer whorl fused to petal claws forming a short ring below the ovary slightly parted on upper side, slightly included to exerted to 7 mm for a single flower; filaments unequal, 14–25.5 mm long, base thicker and with bend at ca. 3 mm positioning filaments somewhat downward and away from upper side of ovary, base and bend green with scattered papillae, white or changing to pale to light pink above midpoint, above midpoint all filaments curved toward lower side of flower; **nectary** = inside bases of 10 fused stamens, green, producing copious thin nectar collecting around base of pistil; anthers versatile, dithecal, ± 2 mm long, purple-red with whitish midstripe on filament side, with anther sacs

in bud facing inward and at anthesis facing upward, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, stalked (stipe), stipe 1.5–2 mm long increasing 2× in fruit; ovary superior, sausage-shaped, ca. 5 × 1.6 mm, mostly yellowish green but green approaching top, glabrous, with 6 faint grooves defining future valve teeth, 1-chambered with many ovules attached to central post; styles 3, exerted ca. 5 mm > anthers, erect and with tips slightly curved upward (diverging from anthers), equal, to 21 mm long, white but pink below stigma; stigmas ca. 1 mm long, cream, papillate mostly on 1 side along curved tip. **Fruit:** capsule, stalked, dehiscent from top by 6 ascending teeth, 40+-seeded, lanceoloid, ca. 16 × 5 mm, glabrous, mostly hidden by persistent calyx; stipe (gynophore) to 4 mm long, with persistent fused bases of claws and stamens (+ nectary). **Seed:** ± kidney-shaped, ca. 1.7 × 1.4 mm, reddish brown (when dry), bumpy with collapsed domed cells in discrete rows along sides and contours with the largest cells along raphe. Late April–mid-July.

Native. Perennial herb found occasionally in coastal sage scrub and on recent partial-shade slopes and openings in chaparral. *Silene lacinata* subsp. *lacinata* formerly was treated as subsp. *major*, which is now considered to be a synonym. This plant is easily recognized as a distinctive, scarlet flower of late spring and early summer that utilizes hummingbirds for pollination. The versatile anthers are positioned on the lower side of the horizontal flower, separated from the three stigmas, and a nectar reward is provided to the hummingbird on the upper side by the reorientation of the fused stamen bases. Subspecies *californica* can be expected in range; it has blades and fruits that are both shorter and broader than described for subsp. *lacinata*, and the inflorescence mostly has only one to three flowers.

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