

*Solanum lanceolatum* Cav., LANCE LEAF NIGHTSHADE, ORANGEBERRY NIGHTSHADE.

Shrub, sparsely prickly, drought-deciduous, with ascending branches from base, in range to 175 cm tall; shoots gray-green, densely covered with tannish, sessile to stalked stellate hairs having arms (rays) fused at center. **Stems:** ± cylindric with raised leaf bases, 20+ mm diameter at base, prickles widely scattered or absent on some stems, erect, acuminoid compressed side-to-side, 2.3–4 × 2–5 × 0.7–1.3 mm, grayed orangey tan to cinnamon, tomentose with stalked stellate hairs, light grayish tan on younger growth becoming glabrescent, older green stems with orangey tan lenticels. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole ± 4-sided or shallowly channeled with marginal ridges, 6–26(–30) mm long, thickly half-cylindric at base and slightly tapered upward; blade lanceolate to elliptic, 50–250 × 15–80 mm, oblique and tapered at base (occasionally symmetric and rounded), entire and somewhat wavy on margins, acute at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly convex on upper surface and principal veins raised on lower surface, upper surface green, moderately soft-pubescent generally with sessile to subsessile stellate hairs, grooved along midrib, lower surface paler than upper surface, densely tomentose with long-stalked stellate hairs. **Inflorescence:** cyme, terminal but appearing lateral on internode due to continued growth from axillary lateral shoot (sympodial growth), many-flowered, coiled as forming, clearly forked 1–2×, flowers spreading, lacking bracts, densely tomentose with sessile to subsessile stellate hairs; peduncle 10–60 mm long; pedicel spreading, at anthesis 5–10 × 1 mm increasing 2× and thicker in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 25–35 mm across; **calyx** 5(–6)-lobed, bell-shaped with spreading lobes, (5–)6–7.5(–9) mm long, green, densely stellate-pubescent with stalked hairs, 10-veined with a vein to each lobe and sinus; tube 2.5–3 mm long, 4.5 mm across, commonly splitting below sinuses; lobes acuminate, in range 4–4.5 mm long, 2.5–2.7 mm wide at base; **corolla** deeply 5(–6)-lobed, cymbal-shaped (rotate) and star-shaped, deep purple or strong violet but glossy greenish or yellowish internally at base; in bud exposed outer surfaces densely pubescent with stalked stellate hairs, unbranched hairs on upper (inner) surfaces; tube 4.5–6 mm long; lobes spreading, deltate, 9–10.5 × 6–9 mm, pinnately veined; **stamens** 5(–6), fused to base of corolla at or just above green base, alternate with corolla lobes; filaments erect, 1.3–2.2 mm long and 0.5–0.7 mm wide at base, yellow or greenish yellow, glabrous; anthers unequal, basifixed, dithecal, oblong slightly tapered, (6–)6.6–7.5(–8) × 1.4–1.6 mm, mostly bright yellow, dehiscing by a terminal pore (paler yellow around pore); pollen yellow; **pistil** 1, 11–13 mm long; ovary superior, domelike to spheroid, 1–1.5 × 1–1.4 mm, light green, sparsely glandular-hairy with colorless stalked hairs, basically 2-chambered (sometimes 3-chambered or 4-chambered by secondary division) with many ovules attached to center; style cylindric, 8.5–10 mm long, pale green, slightly expanded approaching tip, stellate-pubescent at base; stigma exerted and equaling position of anthers, 3–4-lobed or 3–4-domed, dark green. **Fruit:** berry, many-seeded, spheric, 7–15 mm, seeds attached to central axis, yellow to yellow-orange, glabrescent; pulp watery yellow; calyx tube with stellate hairs. Early April–late May.

Naturalized. Shrub sometimes cultivated around homes but escaped along Beverly Glen Boulevard (SMM) and likely occurring in nearby vegetation. *Solanum lanceolatum* has some prickles on stem internodes, although they are not always present.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson