

Solanum physalifolium Rusby var. *nitidibaccatum* (Bitter) Edmonds, HAIRY NIGHTSHADE. Annual, taprooted, several-stemmed at base, branched throughout, decumbent, 10–90 cm tall; shoots pilose with unbranched glandular and some nonglandular hairs (lacking stellate hairs), sticky or not, not ill-smelling. **Stems:** initially ridged aging cylindrical, < 5 mm diameter, with ridges typically 2–3 or rarely 4 (2 on the youngest stems) per internode formed as 2 descending ridges from each leaf, often ± winglike, green, pilose with short and long glandular hairs; sometimes hollow, intact pith white. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole winged, 3–12 mm long; blade ovate, 12–67 × 8–38 mm, broadly tapered at base and sometimes ± oblique, entire, acute at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins conspicuously raised on lower surface, soft-pubescent. **Inflorescence:** cyme, several-flowered, somewhat 1-sided, generally appearing ± opposite a leaf, flowers nodding, lacking bracts; axes hairy including short glandular hairs; pedicel at anthesis typically < 3 mm long increasing 2× in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 5–8 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, green, pilose-glandular; tube 1.6–1.8 mm long, membranous between green lobes, weakly 5-veined; lobes ± equal, acute-deltate, at anthesis 1.2–2 mm long, becoming broader and spreading in fruit; **corolla** 5-lobed, cymbal-shaped (rotate) and star-shaped; tube absent; throat broadly flaring, reinforced with 5 radiating, greenish yellow, spokelike veins; lobes spreading but becoming ± reflexed, triangular-ovate, 2–2.5 × 1.7–2 mm, white, villous on lower (under) surface; **stamens** 5, fused to base of corolla and at bases also fused into a rim, alternate with corolla lobes; filaments erect, 0.5–1 mm long, yellowish green, villous on inner side; anthers basifixed, dithecal, erect and touching, 1.5–1.7 mm long, yellow and sometimes slightly orange approaching tips, dehiscing inwardly by longitudinal slits that begin at and extend from the tip (appearing to be dehiscing by terminal pores because anthers appressed together); pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1, 3–4 mm long; ovary superior, initially hemi-ellipsoid becoming spheric, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with > 10 ovules attached to center; style < 2.5 mm long, greenish white, with colorless glandular hairs to midpoint, bent below stigma; stigma barely exerted beyond anthers, small-capitate, green. **Fruit:** berry, typically ca. 20-seeded, spheric, 6–9 mm, green turning yellowish with clusters of several, small, pale gray green markings, leathery and aging brownish; subtended by star-shaped, clasping, green calyx to 10 mm across. **Seed:** ± circular and compressed, 2 mm diameter, brownish tan, glabrous. Late May–early January.

Naturalized. Annual weed especially of agricultural fields on the westernmost edge of the range, where it can become abundant, but otherwise rarely observed. *Solanum physalifolium* was formerly treated as *S. sarrachoides*, although the two species are not synonymous. This has the smallest flowers of our nightshades, and in vegetative condition *S. physalifolium* is distinctively more hairy than the common species of *Solanum*, which produce instead blackish berries.

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