

*Stanleya pinnata* (Pursh) Britt. var. *pinnata*, DESERT PRINCE'S PLUME. Subshrub, with many herbaceous shoots arising from a woody base, decumbent to ascending, in range < 100 cm tall; shoots with branches initially with leaves clustered before stem elongating, uniformly short-puberulent, glaucous with short hairs emergent through surface wax, irregularly spotted with myrosin cells (sulphur-containing chemicals). **Stems:** cylindric, herbaceous stems < 5 mm diameter, with 1 ridge short-descending from each leaf, green to yellowish green, sometimes with pimplelike blemishes. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply pinnately lobed with 2–6 lateral lobes or unlobed, to 205 mm long, petiolate, without stipules; petiole 20–30 mm long; blade of pinnately lobed leaves with terminal lobe lanceolate, 30–130 × 6–35 mm, 1/2–3/4 leaf length, sometimes lobed at base, lobes often folded along midrib, entire or irregularly wavy on margins, acute at tip, lateral lobes 15–50 × 3–11 mm, with sinuses almost to midrib, dark green to yellowish, entire or wavy on margins, rachis below terminal lobes winged, pinnately veined with only midrib conspicuous and raised on both surfaces, puberulent or glabrate, with slightly raised myrosin cells, distinctly glaucous with removable surface wax; blade of unlobed leaves lanceolate to linear, 80–150 × 8–18 mm, entire or wavy on margins, acuminate at tip. **Inflorescence:** raceme or panicle of racemes, terminal, often > 300 mm long, densely many-flowered, lacking bracts, axes short-puberulent; peduncle 30–40 mm long, strongly ridged with ridges descending from pedicels, yellowish green and conspicuous glaucous, spreading in fruit; bractlets absent or sometimes 1 subtending a pedicel and inconspicuous; pedicel 5–9 mm long, at anthesis ± ⊥ rachis, typically not glaucous. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 20 mm across (with spreading sepals and stamens), 18–25 mm long (+ 10 mm = any reflexed sepals); **sepals** 4, spreading to strongly reflexed, outer 2 overlapping inner 2, narrowly oblong to linear, 10–17 × 1.5–2.5 mm, the widest at base, yellow, parallel-veined with veins slightly raised on outer surface; **petals** 4, clawed, 10–15(–18) mm long; claw thick, greenish yellow, stout-pubescent on outer side, densely pubescent on inner side, with narrow membranous wing; limb oblanceolate, 4.5–7 × 1.7–2.3 mm, bright yellow; **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic with outer 2 short and inner 4 longer; filaments 19–28 mm long, yellowish green to greenish approaches anther, long-pubescent to short-pilose at base; anthers basifixed, dithecal, exerted at least 5 mm above petals, 4.3–5.7 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent then coiling like a watch spring as anther dehisces tip to base; pollen light yellow; **nectaries** 4, opposite sepals, 2 surrounding filament bases of outer 2 stamens, 2 ± encircling filament bases of paired inner stamens, domed, to 0.7 mm tall, green, producing copious nectar; **pistil** 1, with long stalk (gynophore); gynophore at anthesis ca. 10 mm long; ovary superior, linear and subcylindric, 3–5 mm long, green, glabrous, 2-chambered, each chamber with ca. 10 ovules; style absent; stigma weakly 2-lipped (in lateral view), each lip semicircular so the 2 forming a circular rim region around a pit at top of ovary. **Fruit:** siliqua (silique), dehiscent by 2 valves, on a slender gynophore 15–19 mm long, to 20-seeded, linear and gently curved, 20–45(–55) × 1.5–2.7 mm, irregularly constricted between seeds, with seeds in 1 row per chamber. **Seed:** oblong and flattish, 1.8–3 × 1.4–1.7 mm, reddish brown, rounded on 1 end and notched on the other end, seed surface ± conforming to the folded embryo. January–December.

Native. Subshrub, one of the most interesting perennials of the range found on disturbed coastal bluffs just south of Malibu Creek in Malibu, but also in several other isolated sites. *Stanleya pinnata*, Prince's plume, blooms unpredictably any month of the year after it has

resumed growth, following substantial rain or supplemental water. Its coastal habitat is being taken over by ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*) and the highly invasive *Euphorbia terracina*. The few remaining local plants are shorter than those occurring elsewhere in the western United States, where this species is often recognized an indicator of high-selenium soils.

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