

Symphotrictrum lanceolatum (Willd.) G. L. Nesom var. *hesperium* (A. Gray) G. L. Nesom, LANCE-LEAVED ASTER, WHITE-PANICLED ASTER. Perennial herb, clumped, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, 1-stemmed at base, with ascending to decumbent shoots, in range 20–140 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, ± strigose in canopy. **Stems:** low-ridged aging cylindric, to 3.5 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, when green strigose becoming glabrescent having hairs mostly persisting in grooves. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile (upper cauline leaves), without stipules; petiole tapered, winged and indistinct from blade, parallel-veined; blade of basal leaves nearly fully sheathing stem, oblanceolate, 50–100 × 8–15 mm, entire and ciliate on margins, acute and minutely prowl-like at tip with a subterminal point on lower surface, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface, glabrous; blade of upper cauline leaves linear to linear-lanceolate, 15–90 × 1–6.5 mm decreasing upward, rounded to short-cordate at base, entire and ciliate on margins, acuminate with short point at tip, pinnately veined, upper surface strigose aging glabrescent, lower surface glabrous. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal, racemelike or paniclelike arrays, head radiate, 26–34 mm across, in range with 17–23 ray flowers and 34–46 disc flowers, bracteate; peduncle ascending, slender, 15–60 mm long, ridged, with several bracts, the bracts along axis leaflike and linear-lanceolate to linear, ciliate on margins, upper surface strigose; **involucre** hemispheric, 7–8 × 5.5–8 mm, phyllaries ca. 40–60+ in 4–6 series, unequal, oblong-linear, outer phyllaries 3–4 × 1 mm, inner phyllaries 7 × 1 mm and noticeably > outer phyllaries, ciliate on margins (outer phyllaries) or hairs only near tip (inner phyllaries), green along midvein and at tip and having scarious margins, obtuse to acuminate at tip often with short point; receptacle ± flat, without bractlets (paleae), honeycombed, with scarious crown surrounding each ovary of disc flowers. **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, 1–2 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of capillary bristles, the bristles 30–45 in 1 whorl, cylindric and minutely upward-barbed, somewhat unequal, 3.5–7 mm long, white; **corolla** unlobed or minutely 2-lobed; tube cylindric, 2.5–3 mm long, white or pale green; limb spreading, oblong, (6–)10–12 × 1–1.8 mm, strong purple to light violet, acute or with minute teeth at tip, with obscure veins; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, compressed-obovoid with flat outer face, ca. 1 mm long, whitish, inconspicuously 5-ribbed, short-strigose, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, 5–6 mm long, 2-branched, the branches divergent, linear to slightly tapered, 0.5–1.2 mm long, yellowish, rounded at tip, minutely papillate-hairy entire length. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, 1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of capillary bristles, the bristles 30–45 in 1 whorl, cylindric and minutely upward-barbed, somewhat unequal, 6–8 mm long, white; **corolla** 5-lobed, glabrous; tube cylindric, 2.5 × 0.3 mm, pale yellow; throat cylindric, 3.5–4 × 0.8–1 mm, pale yellow; lobes ascending, acute, 0.8–1 mm long, bright yellow; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla at base of throat; filaments 2–2.5 mm long; anthers partially exerted to 1.3 mm, basifixed, dithecal, 3–3.5 mm long, yellow, appendaged at tip, the appendages narrowly acute and ca. 0.5 mm long, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, compressed-obovoid with flat outer face, 1–2 mm long, whitish, inconspicuously 5-ribbed, short-strigose, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted 2.5 mm, 9–12 mm long, **nectary** swelling at base of corolla tube forming a small ring around base of style; style 2-branched, the branches divergent, linear to slightly tapered, 1.5 mm long, yellow, narrowly acute at tip, minutely papillate-hairy from midpoint, flat on inner face. **Fruits:** cypselae,

monomorphic, compressed-obovoid, $\pm 2 \times 0.7$ mm, grayish tan, 4–5-ribbed, short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs, with a tannish callus at base; pappus of 30–45 capillary bristles fused at base, ascending, mostly ca. 6 mm long, whitish, persistent. Early September–late November.

Naturalized. Perennial herb first noticed at SMMNRA Paramount Ranch, there well-established and growing on two frequently used horse trails, so it is likely this species was introduced from elsewhere in California. *Symphyotrichum lanceolatum*, formerly known as *Aster lanceolatus*, is a very widespread species in North America. Variety *hesperium* is the only one recorded for California, although some of our measurements are somewhat outside the range used in the literature, such as longer pappus and bracts subtending the heads and phyllaries, are not exactly typical for the variety and overlap those of other varieties.

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