

Thysanocarpus conchuliferus Greene, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND FRINGEPOD. Annual, taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, erect with ascending branches, in range 2.5–12 cm tall; shoots green but becoming densely purplish mottled, dull, glabrous, glaucous. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 1.5 mm diameter, with short internodes. **Leaves:** helically alternate (2 basal leaves commonly opposite), pinnately dissected with lobes \pm paired or not (often appearing 3-forked near tip) and simple (upper cauline leaves), sessile and clasping, without stipules; blade \pm lanceolate, in range 7–28 \times 2–6 mm, the basal lobes clasping stem and arching, acute to acuminate, 2–3 mm long, lobes or teeth 1–2 on margins per side, the lobes spreading, linear to narrowly triangular, 0.3–7.5 mm long, blunt-acute at tip, 1-veined with midrib raised on lower surface, senescing light purple, persistent. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal and axillary, to 45 mm long in fruit, many-flowered, flowers alternate, flat-topped with open flowers above buds, lacking bracts; axis glabrous and glaucous; pedicel at anthesis ascending, straight, and 4–4.5 mm long increasing to 5–6 mm long and spreading in fruit, never recurved. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 4.5–6 mm across, in bud appearing striped purple and white; **sepals** 4, spreading, monomorphic, \pm obovate, 1.3–2 \times 0.8–1 mm, slightly cupped, dark reddish purple (greenish) on central outer (lower) surface, greenish with purplish margin on central inner (upper) surface, with wide white margins; **petals** 4, short-clawed, white to pale purplish pink; claw 0.5–0.8 mm long; limb spreading, spatulate, 2.4–2.9 \times (0.9–)1.2–1.4 mm, white to pale purplish pink, round or rarely notched at tip; **stamens** 6, free, exerted, slightly dimorphic with outer 2 short and inner 4 longer by 0.1–0.3 mm; filaments 1.7–2.5 mm long, whitish; anthers versatile, dithecal, oblong, 0.4–0.6 mm long, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **nectaries** 2, barely protruding from receptacle at outer base of short stamens, greenish, producing copious nectar (clearly visible on open flowers); **pistil** 1, \pm 2 mm long; ovary superior, ovate to obovate and lenticular, 0.5–0.7 mm long, green soon turning purple, minutely crenate on margins, at anthesis glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule, without septum; style 1.2–1.5 mm long, whitish to light lavender or white basally and lavender near tip, exerted in bud, persistent; stigma narrowly capitate. **Fruit:** siliqua (silicle), indehiscent, 1-seeded, roundish, 2.5–3.4 \times 2.5–2.7 mm; seed chamber in range strongly convex on 1 side and less so or flat on other side, densely pubescent with white hairs to nearly glabrous, winged or lobed on margin; margin 0.25–0.5 mm tall, leaning toward the flatter side of fruit, when immature mostly brilliant deep purplish red fading when fruit matures brownish, thicker at base, in some plants the margin is continuously winged on each side of fruit or 2–3 lobed per side (typically with 1 lobe on each side of style), with lobes separated by deep sinuses extending to seed chamber, in other plants the margin regularly divided into 12–16 lobes; lobes oblong to wedge-shaped or \pm inversely trapezoidal, 0.1–0.7 mm long, truncate to rounded or notched at tip; beak 1.5 mm long, projecting from 2-lobed fruit tip. **Seed:** lenticular, 2–2.5 \times 1.5 mm, brownish, smooth. Mid-January–early April.

Native. Annual recently found in range growing in small patches on talus of andesitic volcanics on north-facing slopes from Sandstone Peak (SMMNRA Circle X Ranch) at least to hills above Westlake Village, growing with *Selaginella bigelovii* and appearing in early spring. *Thysanocarpus conchuliferus*, which was originally thought to be restricted to Santa Cruz Island, is a rare, federally and state listed species that should not be collected. The white flowers are much larger than those of the other local species; the

pedicels are straight and spreading, never recurved as in other fringedpod species; and the immature fruit has a distinctive, lobed, deep purple margin. The populations on Santa Cruz Island have markedly cupped fruits, whereas this mainland form has flatter fruits. Additional study is required to determine whether the mainland populations deserve to be recognized as a distinct variety or subspecies.

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