

Trifolium depauperatum Desv. var. *truncatum* (Greene) Isely, TRUNCATE SACK CLOVER. Annual, taprooted, 1-stemmed at base, decumbent to ascending, 7–35 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, glabrous; roots nodulated. **Stems:** cylindric, to 2 mm diameter, ± tough, often reddish. **Leaves:** helically alternate, palmately 3-foliolate, petiolate without pulvinus, with stipules; stipules 2, fused as sheath attached to stem at node and to petiole, asymmetric and ovate to obovate with eccentric, slender, acuminate tip, 7–8.3(–10) × 2–2.3 mm, the membranous sheath to 2 mm long, the tip 2–3 mm long, green with membranous sheath and patches, entire (several small teeth), tip aging bristlelike, veins conspicuous; petiole ascending, hemi-cylindric and channeled, slender, 13.5–30 mm long; petiolules ± 0.5 mm long, somewhat pulvinuslike; blades of leaflets equal, narrowly oblong or elliptic to oblanceolate, in range 7.5–20 × 2–4.3 mm, typically folded upward from midrib, short-serrate on margins, truncate but with tooth at tip from midvein, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface and lateral veined evenly spaced, dull, upper surface without markings. **Inflorescence:** headlike spike, terminal and axillary, subspheric, at anthesis 7–9.5 mm across, ± erect, 4–9(–13)-flowered, lower whorl typically with 3–7(–8) flowers and having 1 central, terminal flower solitary, or a pair of terminal flowers or some central flowers also in second whorl, flowers of lower whorl spreading, central flowers ± erect, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle ascending, slender, 25–56 × 0.3 mm; **involucre** subtending spike of 6–8 bractlets, dishlike and star-shaped, bractlets free or fused at bases to 0.5 mm, lobes narrowly ovate to lanceolate, 1.8–3.2 × 0.8–1.3 mm, acute at tip (sometimes with minor tooth approaching tip), green with narrowly white margins aging reddish and scarious, glabrous, persistent; rachis short; bractlet subtending central flower reduced and crownlike (scalloped); pedicel of flowers on first whorl 0.2 mm long, stalk of central flowers (sometimes rachis + pedicel) 0.6–1 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, twisted bilateral, pealike (papilionaceous), 2 mm across, 3.3–5 mm long; **nectary** nectar-producing receptacle below ovary; **calyx** 5-lobed, 2.5–3.2 mm long; tube bell-shaped, 0.8–1.4 mm long, longer on upper side than lower side, 5-ribbed, ribs green and membranous between, glabrous; lobes ascending, long-acuminate and bristle-tipped, narrowly triangular, 3 longer on upper side, the longest 1.4–1.7 mm long, the shortest 0.65–1 mm long, each lobe 1-veined; **petals** 5; banner roundish to broadly obovate with short point, 2–3.2 × 1.5–1.6 mm increasing to 5 mm long after anthesis, tan-membranous with brown veins (3 at base) and violet at tip, becoming inflated and encircling other petals, glabrous; wings 2, closely appressed and adherent to keel, not fused, narrowly clawed, claws 0.5–1.3 mm long, limbs oblong, 1.7–3 × 0.45–0.5 mm increasing to 3.8 mm long, mostly whitish but purplish red ± opposite tip of keel, with lobe above upper side of claw, rounded at tip; keel of 2 petals fused only on lower edge approaching tip, clawed, 1.6–3 mm long, claws 0.5–1.3 mm long, whitish, limbs mostly dark purplish red but whitish above claw, rounded at tip, glabrous; **stamens** 10, diadelphous, (9 filaments fused and 1 free), 2.8–3 mm long; filament sheet 2–2.5 mm long, whitish translucent, filament free portions ca. 2.8 mm long; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, spheroid, 0.1–0.25 mm long, light yellow-orange, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow, sticky; **pistil** 1, 3.7–3.8 mm long, short-stalked (stipe); ovary superior, ellipsoid to triangular-obovoid compressed side-to-side, ca. 2 × 0.8–1 mm, green, glabrous, 1-chambered with 2 ovules attached to upper side; style ca. 1.8 mm long, whitish translucent, glabrous; stigma terminal, capitate,

0.15–0.2 mm long, golden yellow. **Fruit:** pod (legume), hidden within inflated, papery corolla, indehiscent, 1(–2)-seeded, compressed-obovoid, 2–2.5 mm long, saclike and thin-walled, tannish and veiny; beak short, withered style sometimes persistent; corolla translucent orangish brown with fine, red veins. **Seed:** asymmetric heart-shaped and compressed, 1–1.2 × 0.9–1.1 mm, dull brown. Late March–late April.

Native. Annual occasionally observed in sunny, grassy patches of chaparral with other native annuals mixed with naturalized herbs. *Trifolium depauperatum* var. *truncatum* appears at first glance to be a small individual of tomcat clover, but has a veiny banner that is conspicuously inflated. The inflated banner in fruit becomes papery. The headlike flower cluster of *T. depauperatum* appears purplish red, whereas *T. fucatum*, also with an inflated corolla, is paler.

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