

Triodanis biflora (Ruiz Lopez & Pavón) Greene, SMALL VENUS' LOOKING-GLASS. Annual, taprooted, 1–several-stemmed at base, branches ascending, 5–40 cm tall; shoots leafy, ± sparsely hirsute below midplant and scabrous to hispid above, the hairs backward-pointing. **Stems:** narrowly ridged (slightly winged), to 1.5 mm diameter, with ridge descending from each leaf, having most hairs arising along ridges. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, short-petiolate (lower leaves) and sessile (upper cauline leaves and bracts), without stipules; petiole to 14 mm long; blade widely lanceolate to ovate or elliptic, 5–15(–30) mm long, entire or toothed and densely papillate and also scattered hairs on margins, rounded to acute at tip, netted-veined, upper surface glabrous, lower surface hirsute. **Inflorescence:** leafy spike, terminal, with 1–4 flowers per node axillary to bract; bract subtending flower cluster leaflike, sessile; bractlets 2 per node either subtending solitary flower or subtending outer flowers, lanceolate to oblanceolate, 2–3 mm long. **Flowers:** dimorphic, early flowers small and cleistogamous, later flowers bisexual (not observed yet in range), radial. **Cleistogamous flower:** ca. 5 mm across, 7–11 mm long; **sepals** 5, ± ovate, dimorphic, upper sepal and 2 lower sepals slightly cupped, 3.5–4 × 1.7–2.6 mm, mostly grayish purplish pink to rose but yellowish green at base, acute at tip or sometimes rounded for 1 or both lower sepals, pubescent; 2 lateral sepals at anthesis spreading, 7–8.5 × 5–5.8 mm, pink to light rose or purplish pink; **nectary disc** = ± tonguelike protrusion of receptacle at base of upper sepal and extending as a rim at base of upper petals toward pistil, ± 1.5 × 0.7 mm, green, cupped, with free tonguelike extension ± 0.5 mm long; **petals** 5 (appearing 3), dimorphic, each fused to staminal column, glabrous; upper 2 petals fused to midpoint of staminal column, oblong to strap-shaped, 9–9.6 × 1.7–2 mm, off-white with pink or dark purplish red with pale yellow at base, 2-toothed at tip; lateral petals (wings) mostly fused to staminal column, 3–3.5 × 0.3–0.6 mm, 1.5–2 mm shorter than upper petal, free 0.5–0.7 mm at acute tip, pale yellow to whitish but becoming tinged purplish red at tip; lower 2 petals fused and keel-like, clawed, the claw 3–4 mm long, light yellow with reddish veins, fused to staminal column with expanded upper portion hooded, 8.5–9 mm long, exceeding sepal wings by ± 1.5 mm, the hood enclosing stamens and style, 5–5.5 mm long, 3–4 mm deep, compressed side-to-side, rose to dark purplish red on exposed parts, beaked at tip, convex on keel, prominently but shortly wavy on upper margin near claw, the beak narrowly triangular, ± 1.2 mm long and 0.5 mm tall at base, flattened side-to-side; petals internally pubescent with colorless surfaces adjacent to stamens; **stamens** 8, fused at base into column, column fused with petals; staminal column opened along upper side and enveloping ovary and lower style, 5–5.5 mm long, constricted approaching tip, free portions of filaments separating from column at different levels and strongly curved upward and surrounding upper style, 1.5–2 mm long, pale yellow or pale yellowish green, pubescent; anthers basifixed, appearing monotheical, urn-shaped, ± 0.6 × 0.3 mm, whitish or yellow, dehiscent at tip by a 2-lipped aperture with 1 lip larger; pollen whitish translucent or yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, ellipsoid to ovoid, 2-chambered with many ovules; style 3–3.5 mm long; stigma positioned above anthers. **Fruit:** capsule, opening with oval or roundish pores near top, many-seeded, ovoid or ellipsoid to oblanceoloid (club-shaped), 4.3–7 × 1.4–1.5 mm, tannish, scabrous. **Seed:** broadly ellipsoid-lenticular, 0.5–0.7 × 0.4–0.5 mm, glossy brown, smooth, not mucilaginous. Early April–mid-May.

Native. Annual first collected in range in May 2008 on the Backbone trail about halfway between Corral Canyon and Latigo Canyon, growing along the trail among grasses and forbs in chamise chaparral, but subsequently found in Conejo Open Space (Ventura County) and another moist, mossy locations in SMM growing under chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*). *Triodanis biflora* has two forms of flowers, cleistogamous and chasmogamous. To date only cleistogamous flowers have been observed in range, but in an extremely rainy spring expect some year to find the other type, which is open for animal pollination.

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