

Verbena lasiostachys Link var. *scabrida* Moldenke, ROBUST VERVAIN, WESTERN VERVAIN. Perennial herb, 1–several-stemmed at base, branches decumbent to ascending (erect), 30–120 cm tall; shoots pilose-villous to hirsute with straight nonglandular hairs and also glandular-hairy, the glandular hairs < 0.5 mm long with small colorless to pale yellow heads. **Stems:** 4-sided, to 5 mm diameter, tough, internodes to 120 mm long, purplish on exposed sides and often purple-striped along edges and ledges, densely hairy. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate with pair connected by low ledges across node, without stipules; petiole winglike and indistinct from blade, to 25 mm long; blade asymmetrically ovate to oblong or elliptic, 30–110 × 20–60 mm, often lobed at base with lobe on 1 side much larger than lobe on other side, broadly tapered to long-tapered at base, coarsely dentate or serrate on margins with hard points on teeth (appearing scabrous), obtuse to rounded at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, somewhat feltlike, lower surface often grayish and more densely hairy while also hirsute along veins. **Inflorescence:** spike, terminal and axillary, long-cylindric, 70–400 × 5–6 mm, many-flowered, flowers alternate to subopposite, tightly arranged but the lowest ones becoming somewhat spaced, subsessile, bracteate, with nonglandular and glandular hairs as on shoot; axis unbranched, many-ridged, with ridges descending from bractlets; bractlet subtending flower acuminate-ovate, 3–3.5 mm long increasing somewhat in fruit, < calyx, green sometimes with purple on margins or at tip, villous and glandular-hairy, upper (inner) surface sparsely puberulent; pedicel < 0.5 mm long. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, 3–4 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, 3.5–4.5 mm long increasing somewhat in fruit, pilose and glandular-hairy; tube 5-ribbed, pleated, ribbed with translucent furrows, ribs purplish in bud later becoming green; lobes erect, unequal, folded lengthwise and acuminate, 0.5–1.3 mm long, upper tooth < other teeth, purple; **corolla** 2-lipped, 5-lobed, 4.5–6.5 mm long; tube ± cylindric, 2.5–3 mm long, glossy lavender to violet or light red-violet, glabrous except for a small patch of short hairs internally on floor below stamens; throat 0.5–0.8 mm long, pubescent, internally with ring of short-villous hairs below midpoint; lips unequal, upper lip 2-lobed and lower lip 3-lobed, lobes rounded or ± truncate, 0.5–1.5 mm long, blue to blue-violet; **stamens** 4, all fertile, pairs fused to corolla at 2 levels, 2 stamens arising on floor at top of corolla tube and 2 stamens arising ca. 0.5 mm lower on roof of corolla tube, subsessile; filaments very short; anthers basifixed, dithecal, ± 0.4 mm long, bright greenish yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen colorless, sticky; **pistil** 1, 2–2.5 mm long; ovary superior, shallowly 4-lobed, green, glabrous, 4-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; style arising from ovary base in center of lobes, flattened, ca. 1.5 mm long, greenish, asymmetrically 2-branched with an expanded stigma and a short, upward point; stigma greenish, papillate. **Fruit:** schizocarp (microbasarium), of 4 dry, 1-seeded mericarps (nutlets), nutlets 3-sided oblong, 1.5–1.7 × 0.7–0.8 mm, dark brown and rounded on outer side with darker veins, 2 flat faces with numerous whitish angular papillae, faces separated with ridge, having an attachment scar at base of ridge and off to the side. Early December–mid-August.

Native. Perennial herb occurring commonly throughout the range in coastal sage scrub or grassy areas in chaparral or southern oak woodland. *Verbena lasiostachys* var. *scabrida* in range typically is not scabrous, but it is instead soft-hairy or at best possesses stiffer, hirsute hairs. However, the leaf feels scabrous on the margin because each tooth has a

hard point. This variety is best recognized by having whitish angular papillae on the two flat faces of the nutlet. Leaf characters do not seem to be reliable for recognizing varieties, and populational studies are needed to determine whether varieties should be recognized. Specimens identified as var. *lasiostachys* have been collected in range, in that the hairs are relatively soft and the nutlet scar is brown and rough, but ornamentation on nutlets normally ages brown, making this feature suspect as a reliable character.

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