

*Chico, California*



Chico Hiking Association's



Upper Park  
Flower  
Guide

Described herein are the flowers of the Annie Bidwell, Golf Course Cutoff, Legacy, and Yahi Trails.

The intent of this project is to present all the showy flower species along the four trails. But Vern Oswald put it this way in his [1995 Flora of Dales Lake](#):

*"No study of this type is ever complete-additional plants are undoubtedly still to be found..."*

[Maps are here](#)

Initial publishing date: May 2024

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Founder CHA

Builder of Yahi Trail O-T

Photo Contributor & Reviewer UC Berkeley CalPhotos

Identification and photographic help provided by  
Alaine Arslan CalFlora Photo Contributor

Special Thanks to:

Lowell [Ahart](#) for putting his list of Bidwell Park species in the public domain

Elizabeth Painter of UC Berkeley for her intensely [logical compilation](#) of the common names of California plants

Acknowledgment of Woody, Josephine & John whose implacable opposition to the optimization of Upper Park public access & enjoyment was a useful motivating factor for our organization

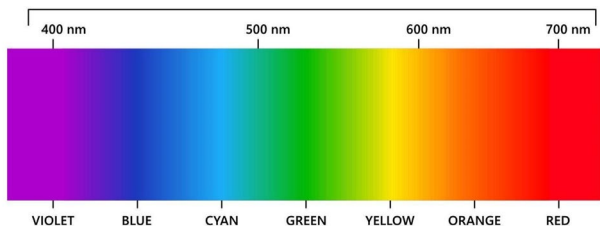
*All photos are from Upper Bidwell Park along the Annie Bidwell, Golf Course Cutoff, Legacy, or Yahi Trails*





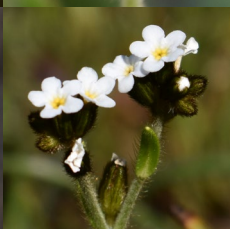
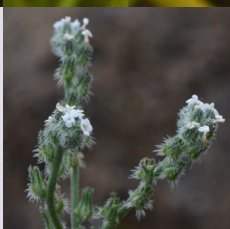
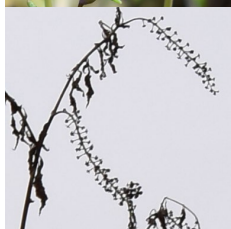
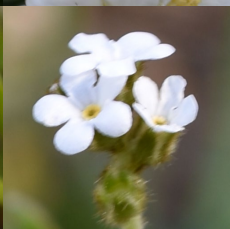
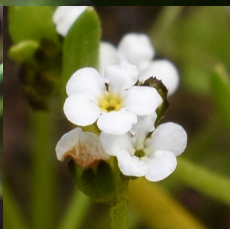
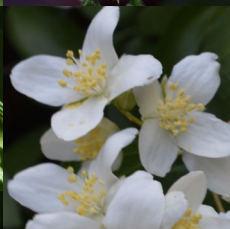
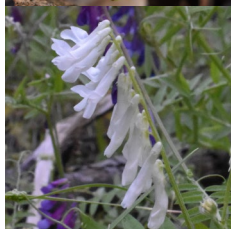
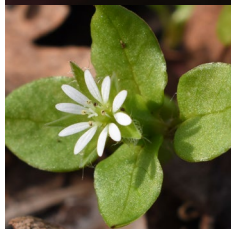
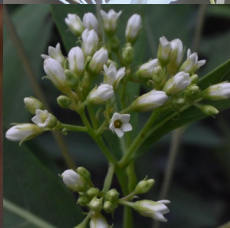
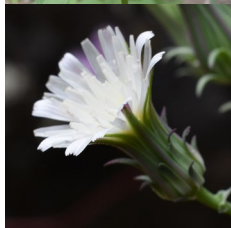
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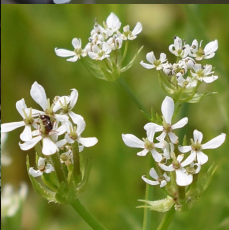
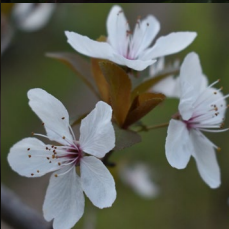
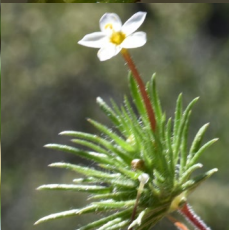
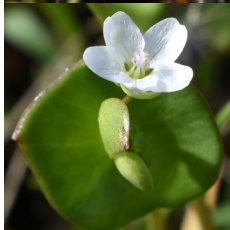
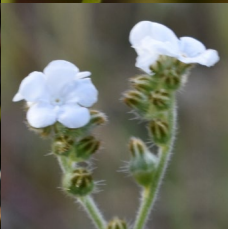
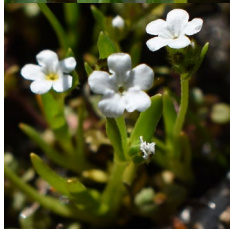
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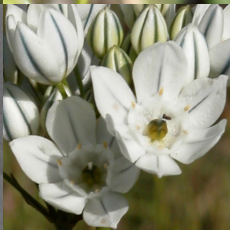
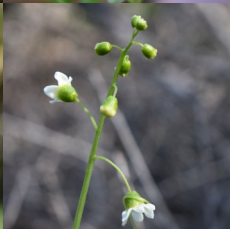
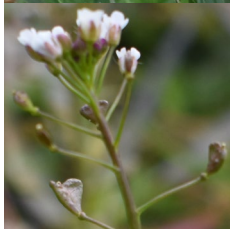
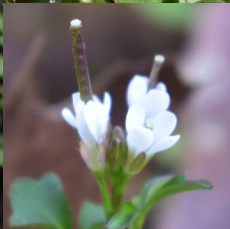
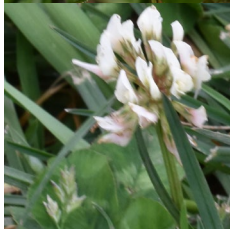
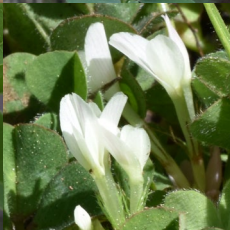
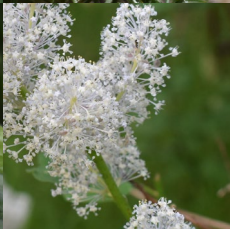
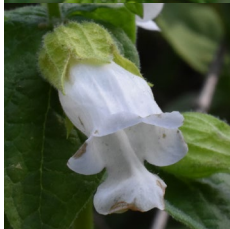
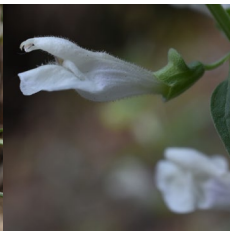
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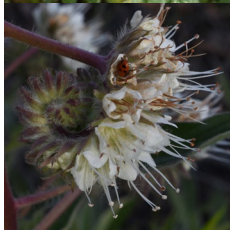
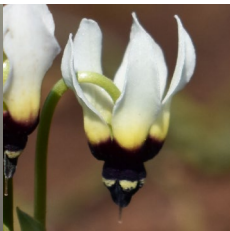




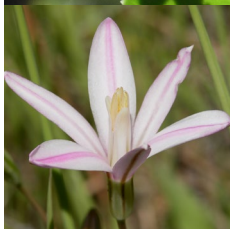
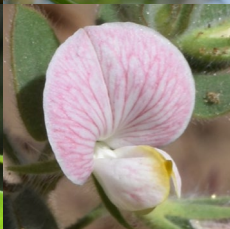
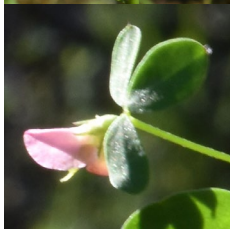
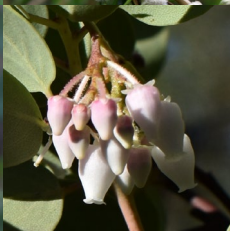
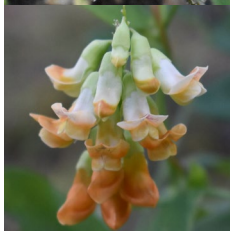


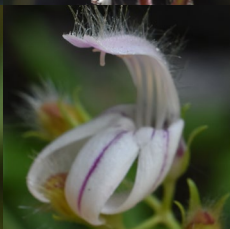
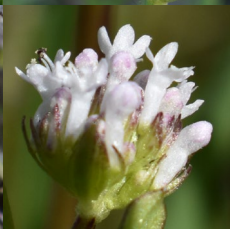
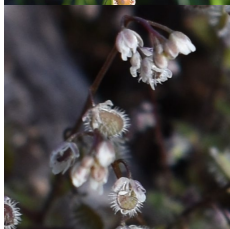
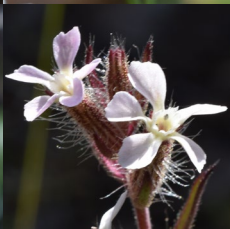
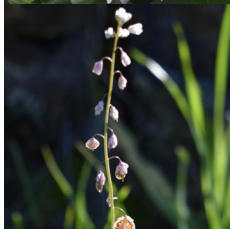
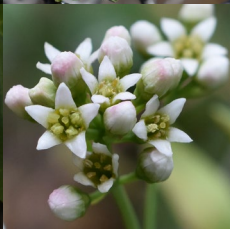
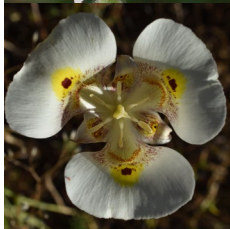
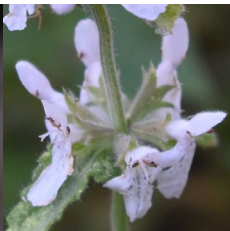




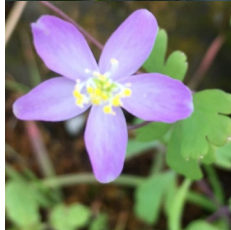
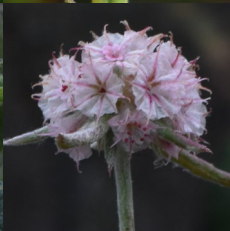
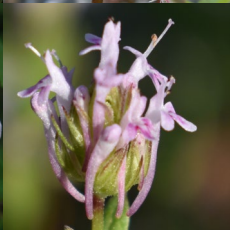
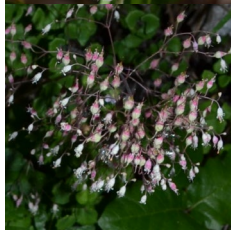
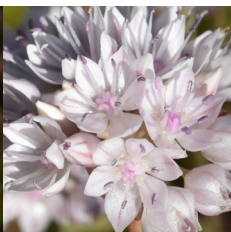


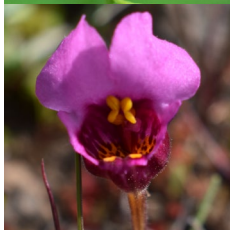
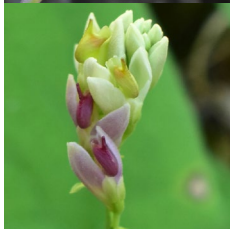
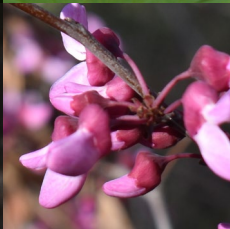
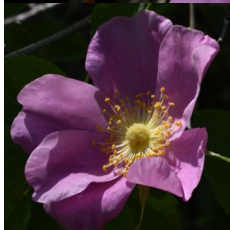
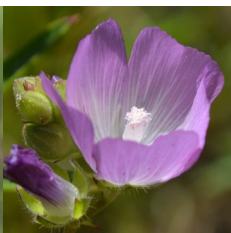




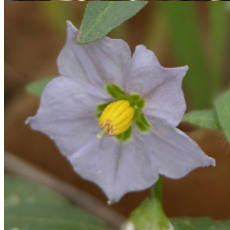
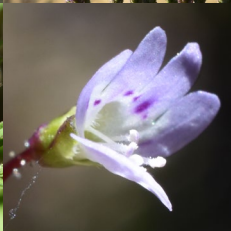
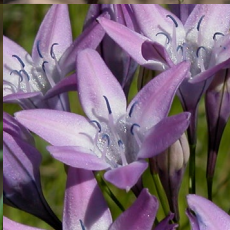
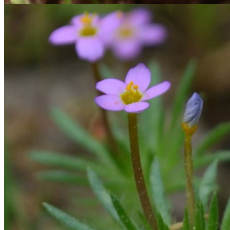


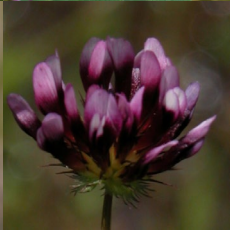
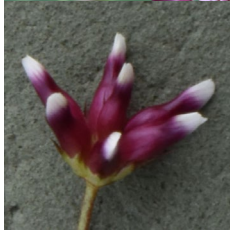
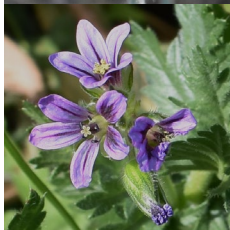
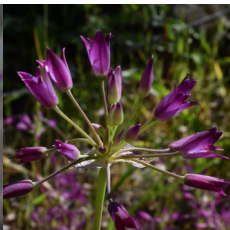




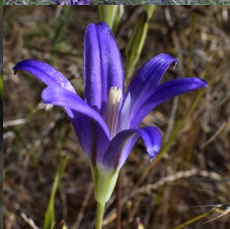
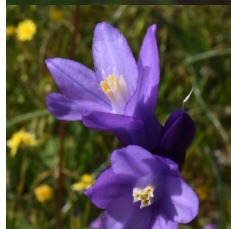
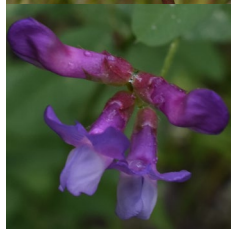
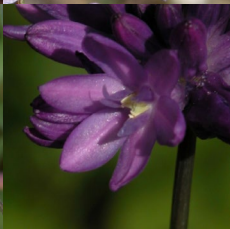
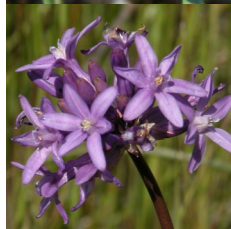
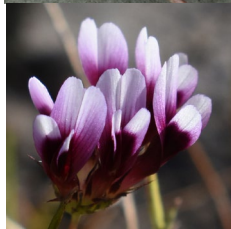
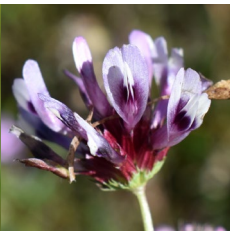
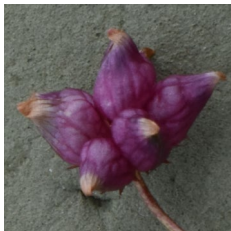


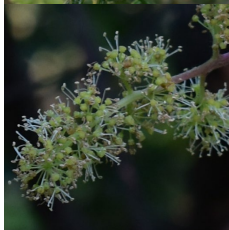




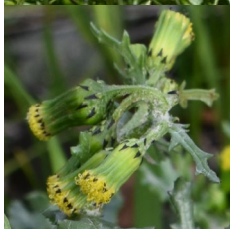
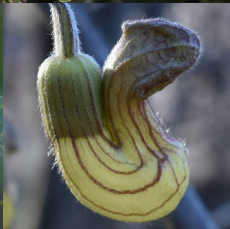




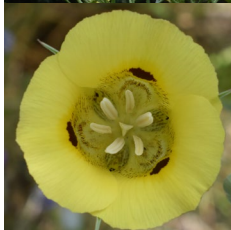
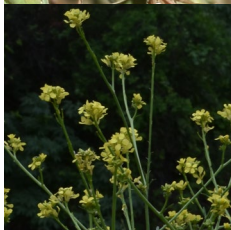
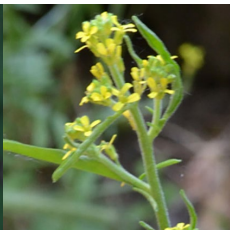






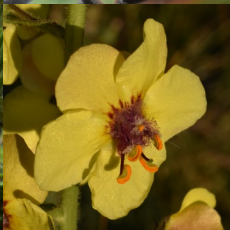
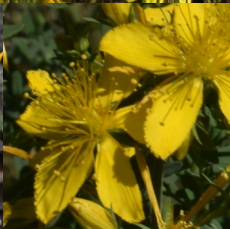
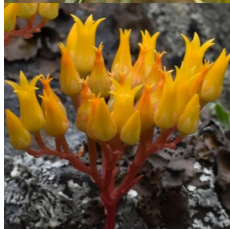
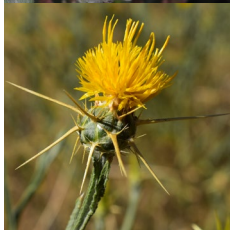
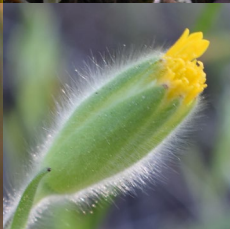


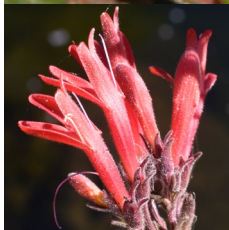
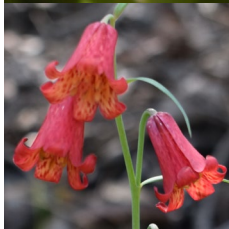
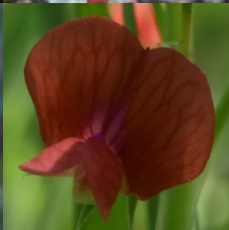
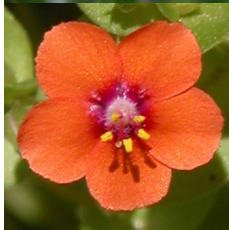
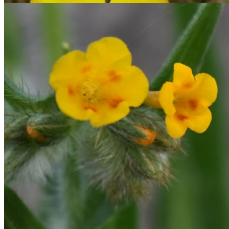
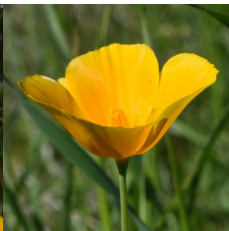
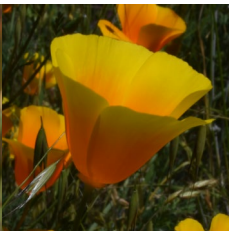


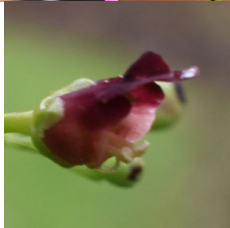
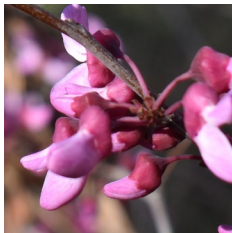












# KEYS

[Sabulina Key](#)

[Popcornflower Key](#)

[Dichelostemma/Dipterostemon Key](#)

[Brodiaea Key](#)

[Purple Tritelia Key](#)

[Plectritis Key](#)

[Micranthes Key](#)

[Dog/Hop Key](#)

[Blackberry Key](#)

[Buttercup Key](#)

[Polemoniaceae Key](#)

[Chinese-houses Key](#)

[Erythranthe Key](#)

[Poppy Key](#)

[Claytonia Key](#)

[Sidalcea Key](#)

[Stachys Key](#)

[Geranium Key](#)

[Filaree Key](#)

[Vicia Key](#)

[Purple Trifolium Key](#)

[Purple Lupine Key](#)

[Manzanita Key](#)

[Marah Key](#)

[Morning-glory Key](#)

[Lonicera Key](#)

[Sonchus Key](#)

[Small Madia Key](#)

[Sunflower Key](#)

[Star-thistle Key](#)

[Thistle Key](#)

[Calycadenia Key](#)

[Perideridia Key](#)

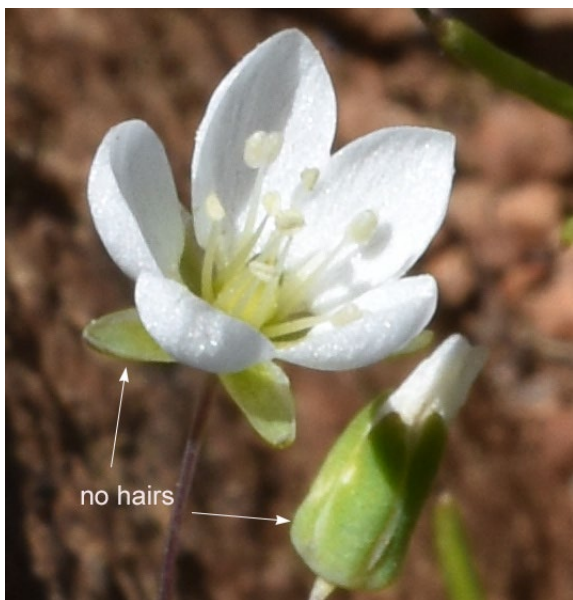
[Sanicula Key](#)[White Mid-sized Key](#)[Soap Plant Key](#)[Apiaceae Bur Key](#)[Asteraceae Group 8 Key](#)[Yellow Lotus/Yellow Acmispon Key](#)[White/Pink Acmispon Key](#)[Nemophila Key](#)[Phacelia Key](#)



## Sabulina Key



If inflorescence glandular-hairy, [click here](#)

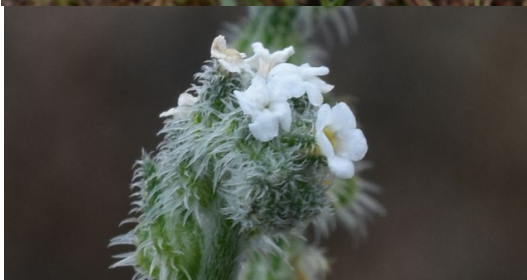


If inflorescence glabrous, [click here](#)

## Popcornflower Key



If they have basal rosettes (may be dried), [click here](#)  
If no basal rosettes continue to the next page



If it is a plant of dry areas and looks like this [click here](#)

If it is a plant of wet areas, continue to next page





Flowers present near stem base, lower leaves 3-8 cm,  
click [here](#)



Flowers present near stem base, lower leaves 1-2 cm,  
click [here](#)

If flowers 0 near stem base continue to next page



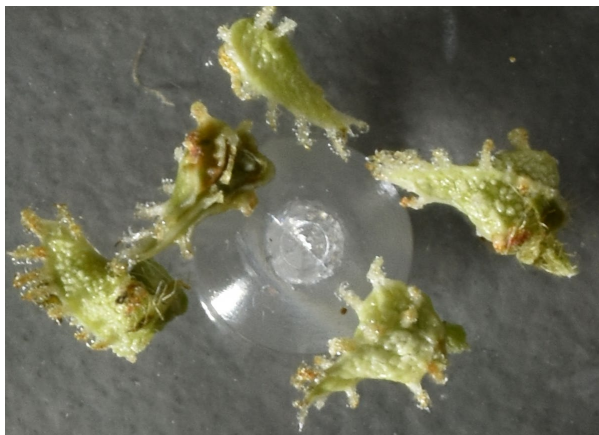


Find some nutlets from your specimen:

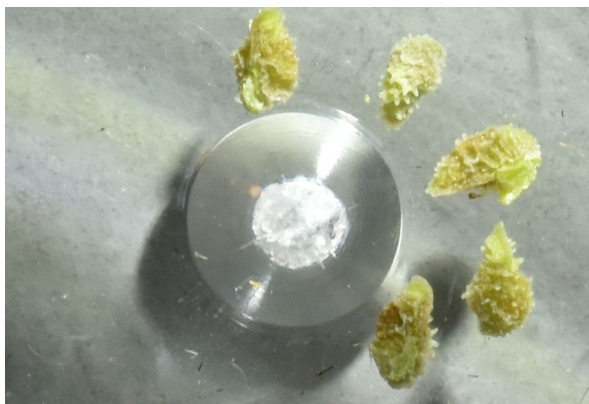


continue to next page to compare nutlets

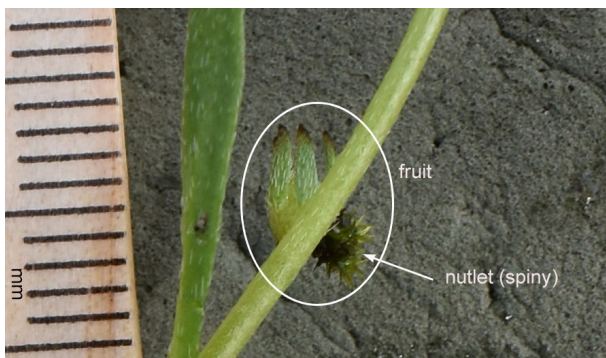




If looks like this click [here](#)



If looks like this click [here](#)



If looks like this click [here](#)

*Continuation of popcornflowers with basal rosettes of leaves:*



If fruit are circumscissile (tug on cap to test), click [here](#).



If calyx lobes are dense-brown-hairy, click [here](#)  
Otherwise please proceed to the next page





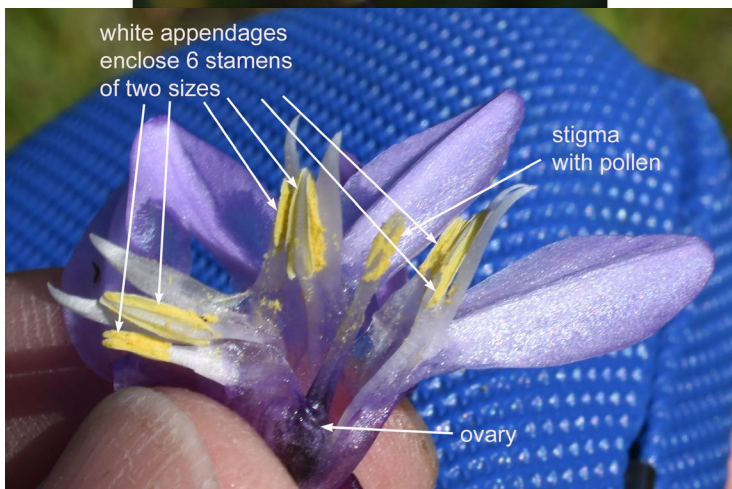


If stem [canescent](#) (grayish white hairy), especially if stem prostrate to ascending (may be erect), click [here](#)



If stem erect and less than 30 cm (12 in), click [here](#)

## Dichelostemma/Dipterostemon Key



If white appendages enclosing 6 stamens of two shapes,  
[click here](#). Otherwise continue to the next page



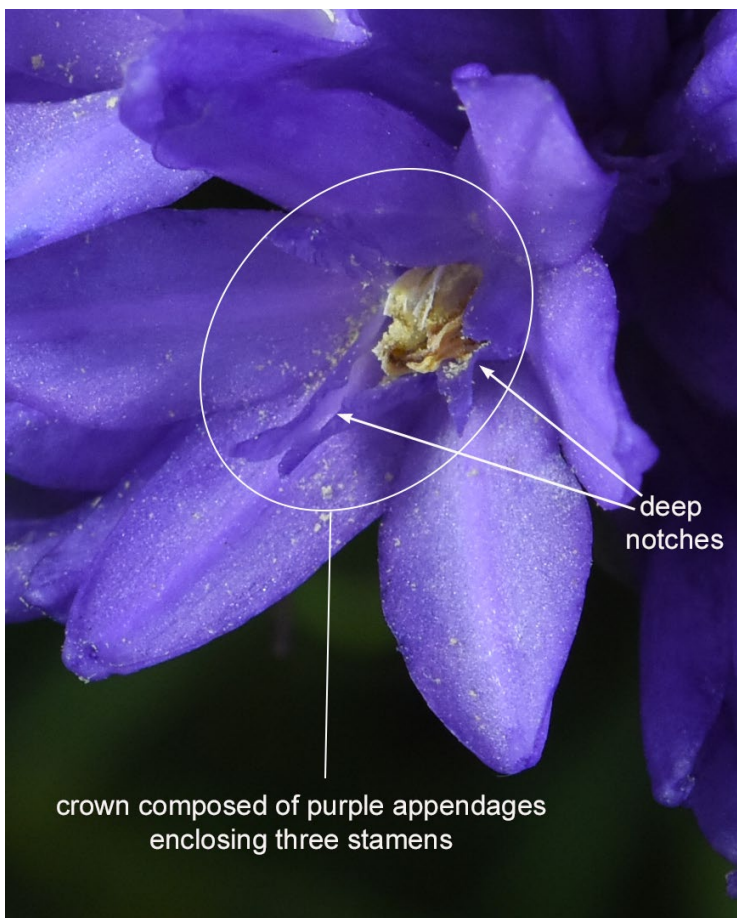
perianth crown  
composed of 3 white or pale purple appendages  
without deep-notching  
3 stamens in center of crown

If like this, [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to next page







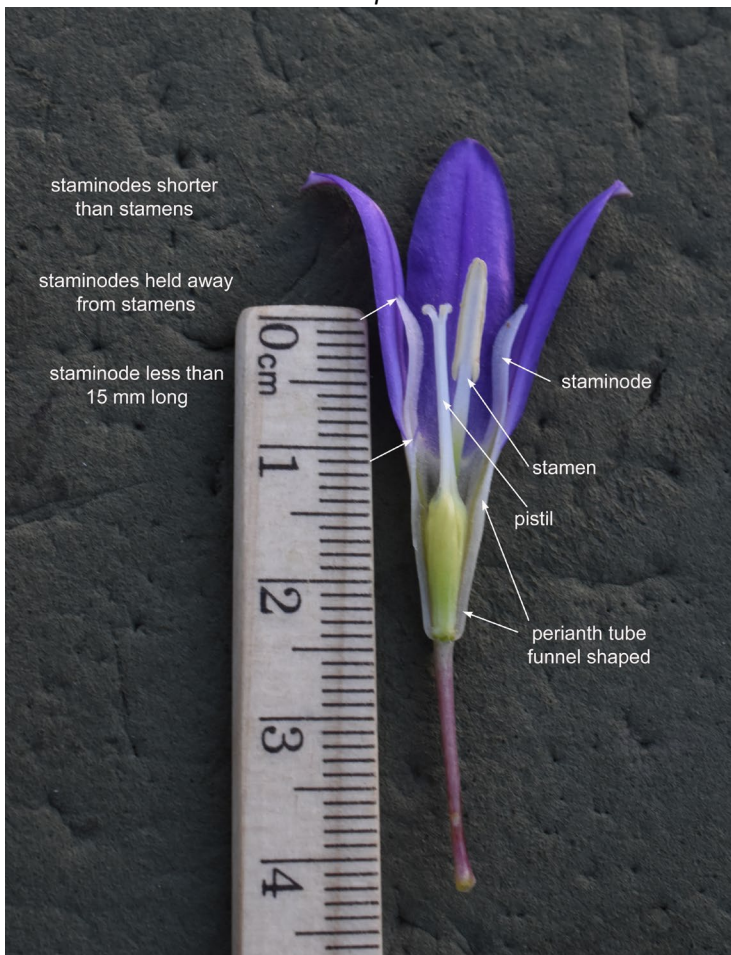
The combined appendages are the *perianth crown*.

If like this, [click here](#)

**End** Dichelostemma/Dipterostemon Key

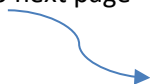
## Brodiaea Key

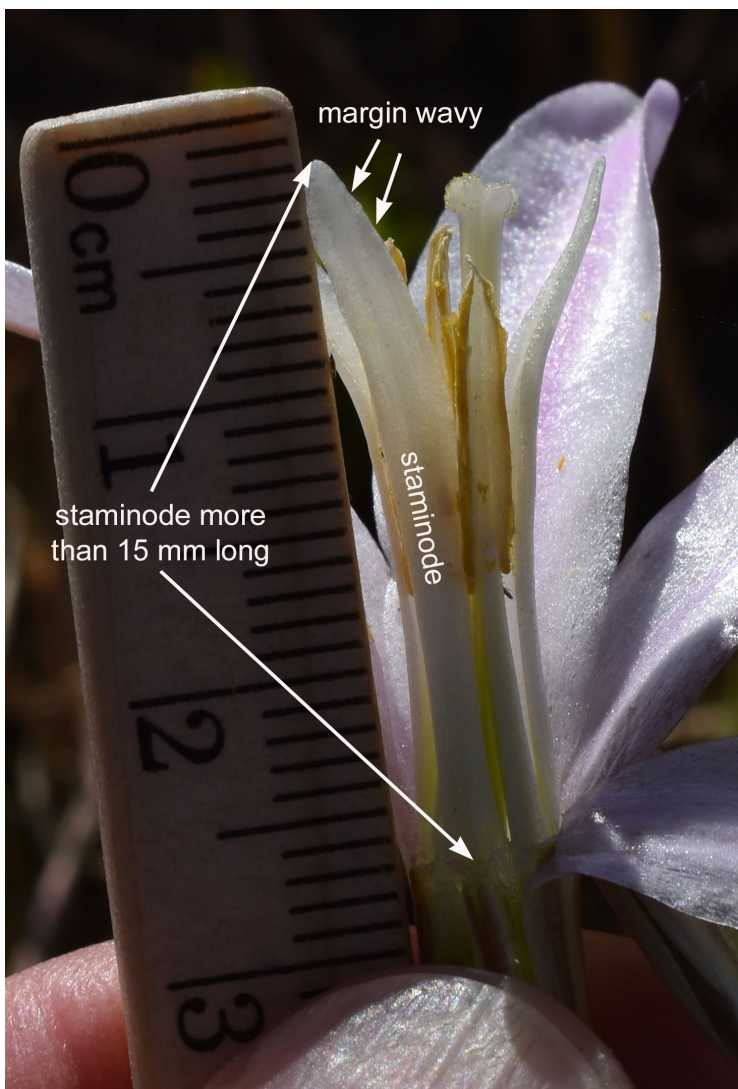
*Note: the key works fine for many specimens, but some specimens exhibit characteristics of more than one species. The waviness of the margin of the staminodes of Brodiaea californica in Upper Park is minimal; see CalPhotos for other examples.*



If like this, [click here](#)

If staminodes are closer to stamens continue to next page



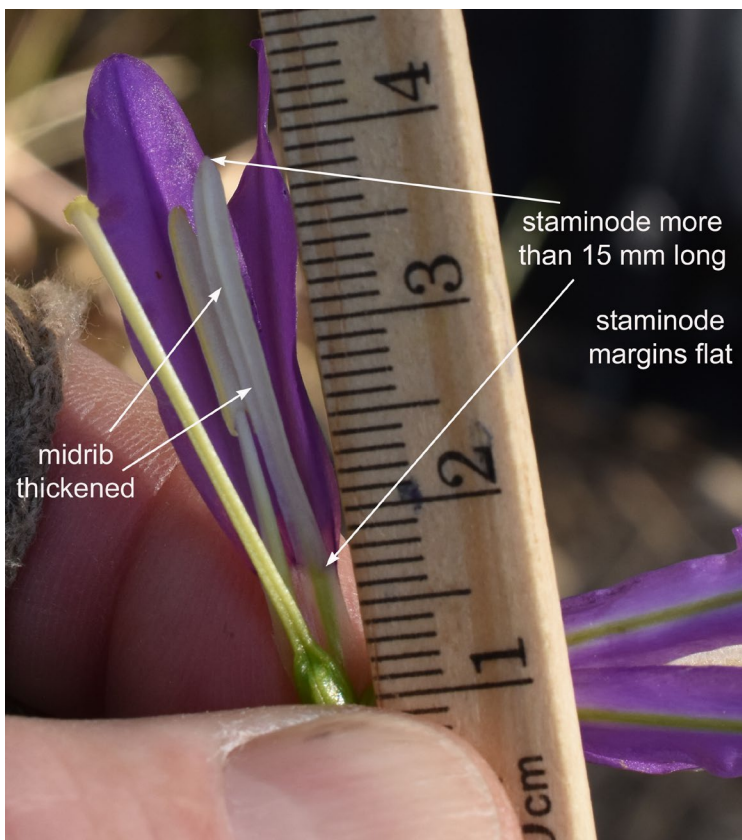


If like this (especially if pink), [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to next page







If like this, [click here](#)

**END Brodiaea Key**

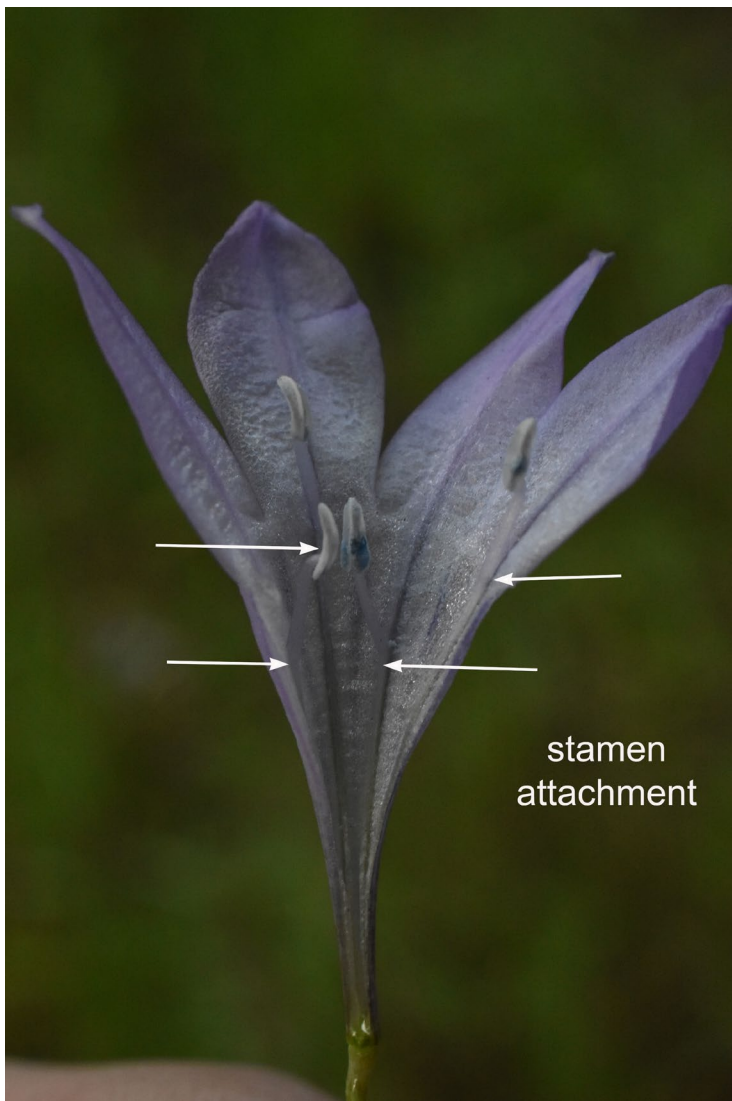
### Purple *Triteleia* Key



Stamens attached at one level, [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to next page





stamen  
attachment

Stamens attached alternatively at two levels, [click here](#)

Note color of these species vary among different shades of purple, and is not a reliable identifier



## Plectritis Key



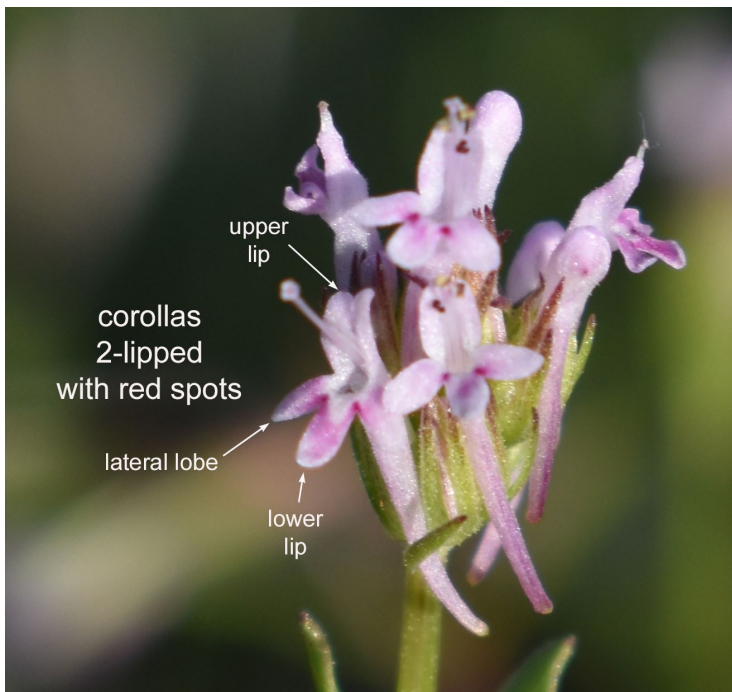
If they are dark pink, they are [P. ciliosa](#)



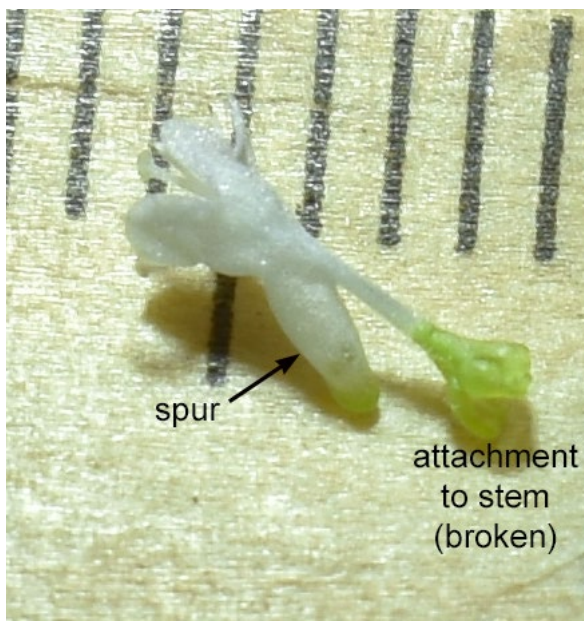
If they are white they are [P. macrocera](#)

But both species can be light pink, so use the key:





Red spots, spur slender pointed, corolla 2-lipped, [click here](#)  
Otherwise continue



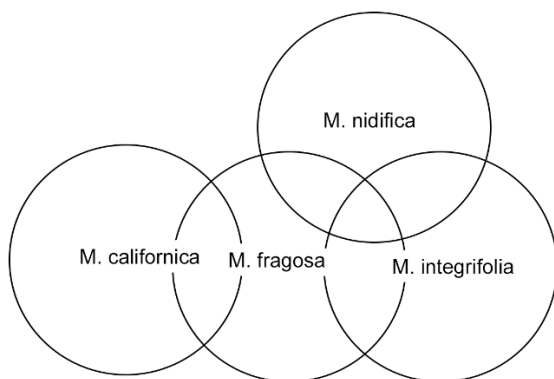
No red spots, spur thick blunt, corolla +- radial, [click here](#)



## Micranthes Key

We have four species of *Micranthes*, which intergrade.

Meaning that some plants have genes representative of more than one of the species. In Upper Park about a third of the plants cannot be assigned to species, in this case use the genus name: *Micranthes* spp. for the scientific name, and *Saxifrage* for the common name



Intergradation in *Micranthes* species

Continue to next page for species key that will work on about 2/3 of the *Micranthes* specimens





If the leaves are shallowly toothed, and →



Inflorescence is open (flowers not clustered), and →



Petals about twice as long as sepals, [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to next page





If petals are 1-2mm, and →



Sepals often reflexed, [click here](#)

If petals are greater than 2mm, continue to next page







Top of inflorescence hemispheric to flat-topped, and



Sepals reflexed to spreading

[Click here](#)



Top of inflorescence conical to cylindric, and



Sepals erect to ascending

[Click here](#)

## Dog/Hop Key



If it has compound leaves with 3-5 leaflets, [click here](#)



If leaf is simple, [click here](#)

## Blackberry Key



Stems not angled and flowers generally 10 or less, [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to next page







Stems 5-angled and flowers generally > 10, [click here](#)

## Buttercup Key



leaves this shape [click here](#)



Leaves three-parted like this, continue to next page





9-17 petals per flower, [click here](#)



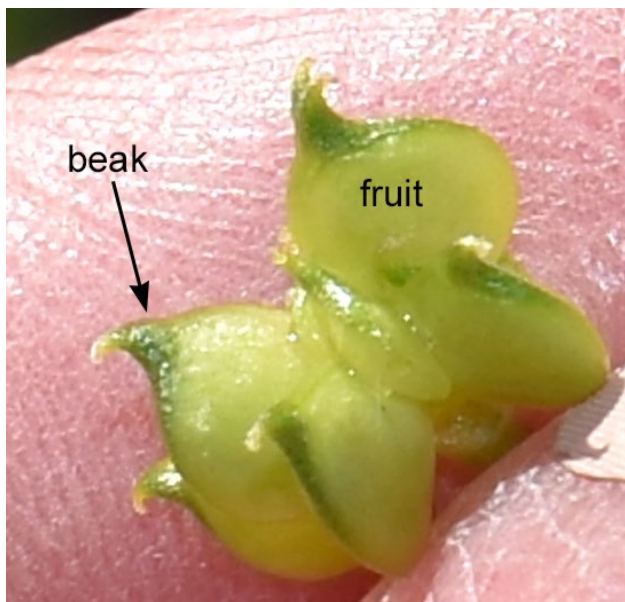
5-7 petals, continue to next page







If fruit beaks curved lanceolate and fruit body 2.6-3.6 mm across, [click here](#)



If fruit beaks curved deltate and fruit body 3.4-4.4 mm across, [click here](#)

See note next page



Note: there is intergradation observed between these two so often not possible to assign the specimen to one or the other of these species. Also we have observed a single plant with both a flower with 9+ petals and a flower with 5-7 petals.

Suggests there may be hybridization of the previous 3 species

## Polemoniaceae Key



If as above [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to the next page





If as above [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to the next page





ciliate bracts: Having generally straight, conspicuous hairs (cilia) along margins or edges



If as above [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to the next page





If corolla is salverform and usually just one flower per inflorescence blooming at any given time [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to the next page

Here is a [glossary](#)





If as above [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to the next page





If as above [click here](#)

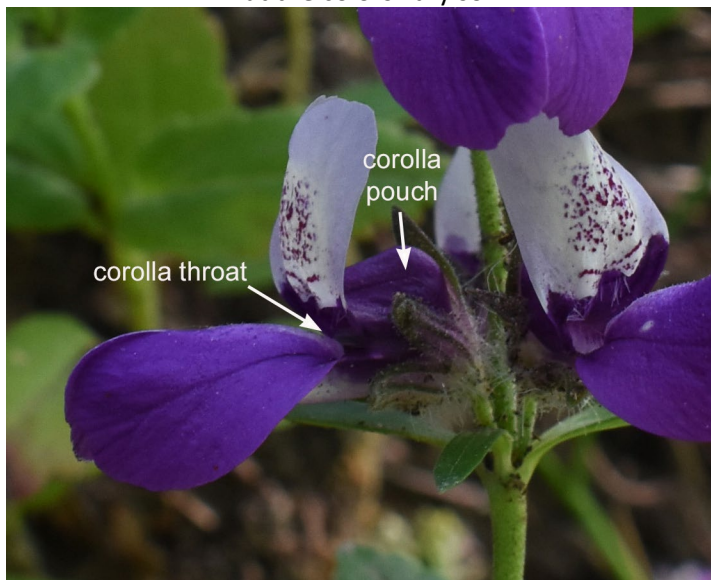
Polemoniaceae Key  
END



## Chinese-houses Key

In Upper Park, Chinese-houses are generally purple and  
Sticky Chinese-houses are generally white.

But the colors vary so:



Corolla throat as wide as long, pouch +-square. [Click here](#)



Corolla throat longer than wide. [Click here](#)

## Erythranthe Key

Widely varying in size. These all have fibrous roots.



Round, glaucous bracts. These are a distinct species.

[Click here](#)

See [Glossary](#) for meaning of glaucous.

For the next two species one can sometimes find specimens that meet the [identification criteria](#), but half the time they are a hybrid or intergrade between. They used to be considered the same species [Erythranthe guttata](#), of which [1000 studies](#) may have been done.





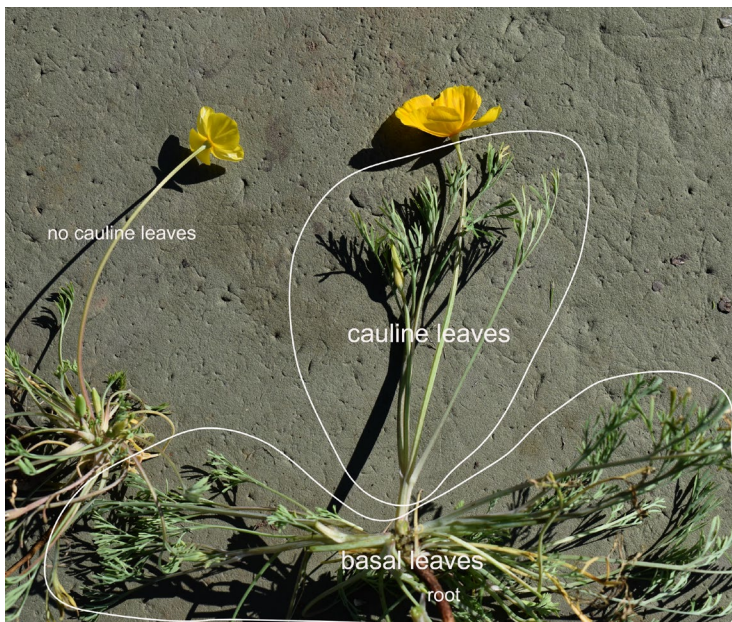
Corolla tube not exerted more than 3mm, glabrous stem  
bracts densely soft-hairy. [Click here](#)



Corolla exerted 4-8 mm or flowers only in axils of distal leaves [Click here](#)



## Poppy Key



If no cauline leaves, only basal [click here](#)  
If cauline leaves present continue next page

Jepson eFlora [glossary](#)

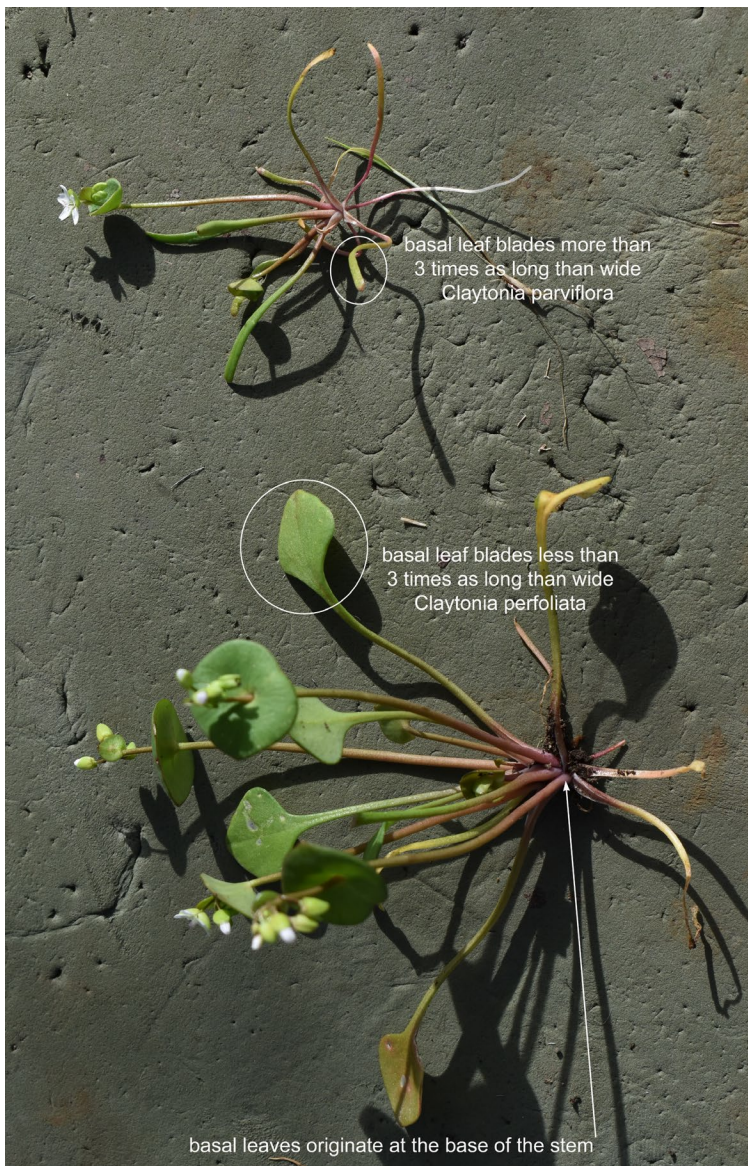


receptacle like this, [click here](#)



If receptacle like this [click here](#)

## Claytonia Key



*C. parviflora* [click here](#)

*C. perfoliata* [click here](#)

Note: there are intermediates which can not be easily assigned to one species or the other



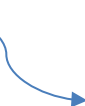
## Sidalcea Key



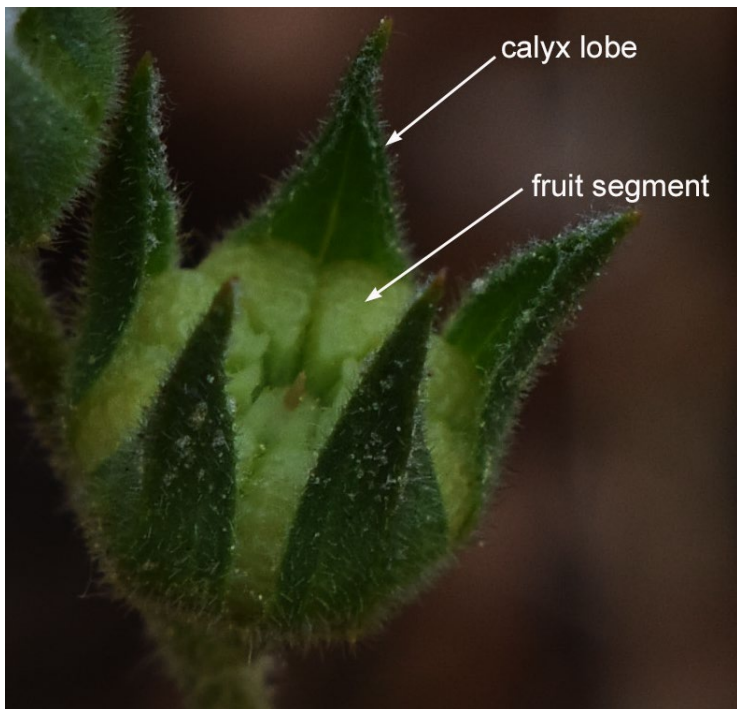
(ruler is in cm, 88 cm  $\approx$  35 inches)

If the plant is over 30 inches tall, [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to next page





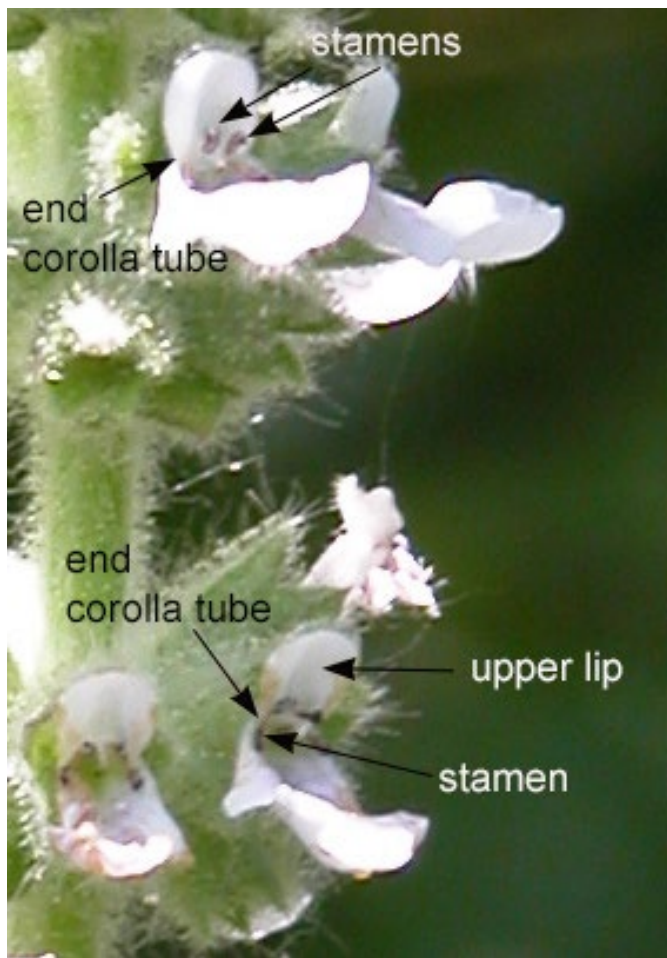


If fruit segments have net pattern with deep pits on top (and no obvious bracts are present), [click here](#)



If fruit segments are longitudinally grooved and there are bracts subtending the flower/fruit, [click here](#)

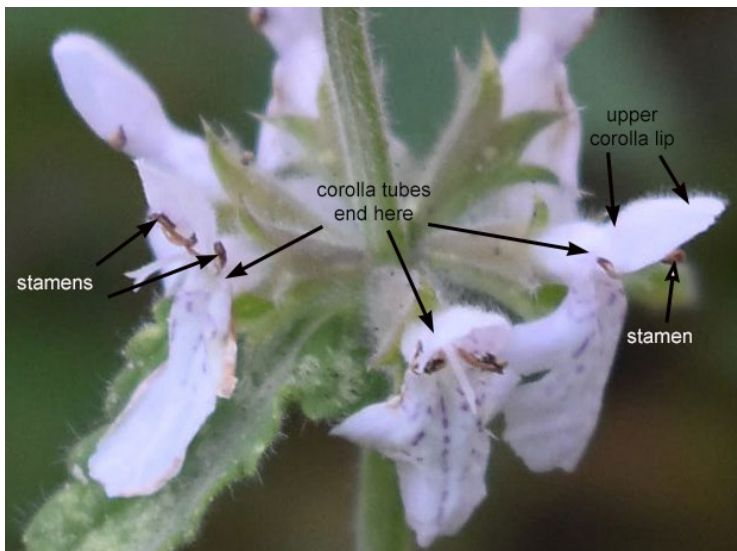
### Stachys Key



If upper corolla lip less than 2 mm; stamens usually a little exserted from corolla tube, [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to next page





If upper corolla lip greater than 2 mm; stamens clearly exerted\* from corolla tube, [click here](#)

\*See [glossary](#) for definition

## Geranium Key



If leaves are this shape, [click here](#)



Or this shape, [click here](#)



or this shape, [click here](#)



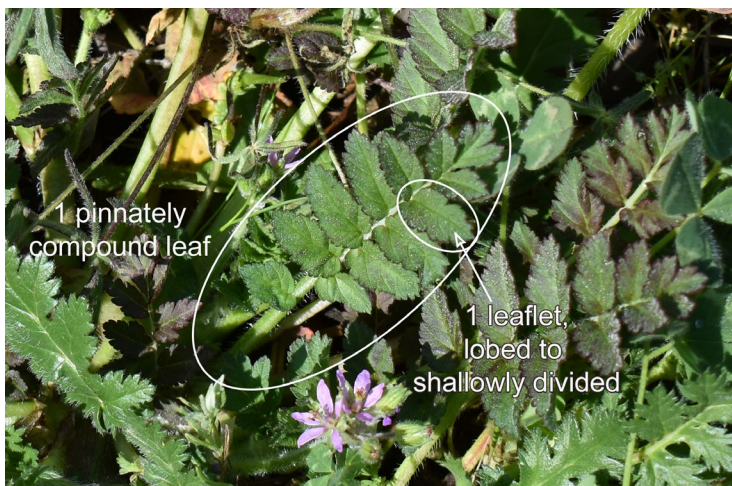
## Filaree Key

Pinnately *compound* basal leaves  
(*simple* leaves next page)

Reference: [Jepson glossary](#)



If matches above, [click here](#)



If matches above, [click here](#). Otherwise next page

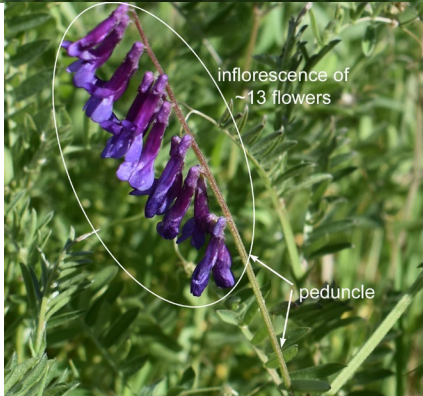
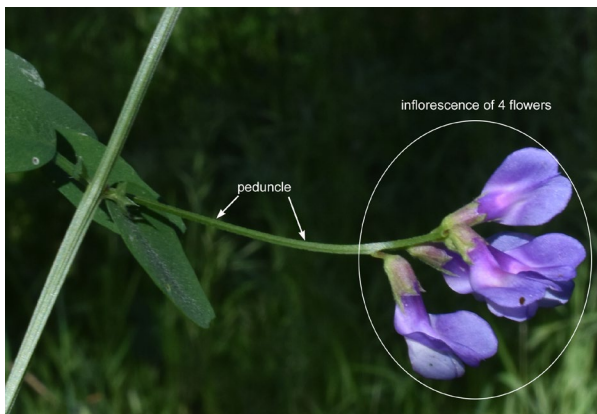


Leaf simple, lobed to dissected & looks like this, [click here](#).



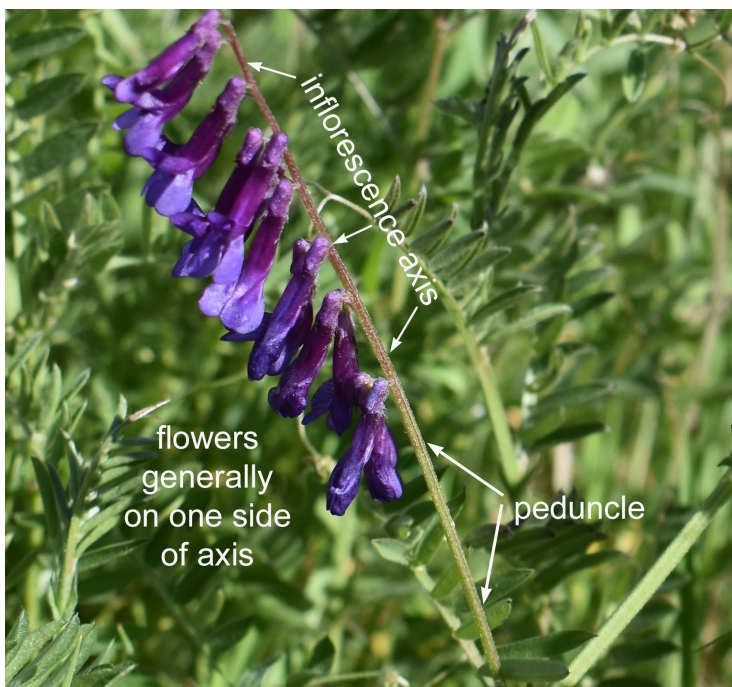
Leaf simple, lobed & looks like this, [click here](#)

## Vicia Key

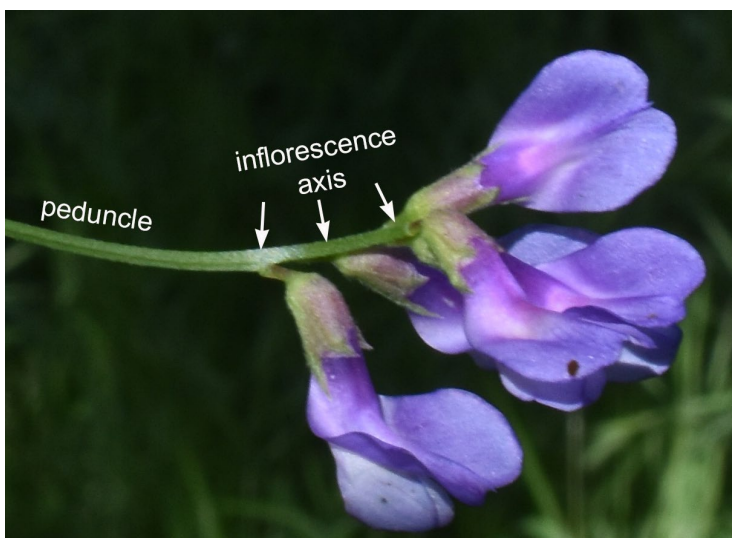


if no or minimal peduncle, [click here](#). Otherwise continue





Flowers on one side of axis, [click here](#)



Flowers on more than one side of axis, [click here](#)

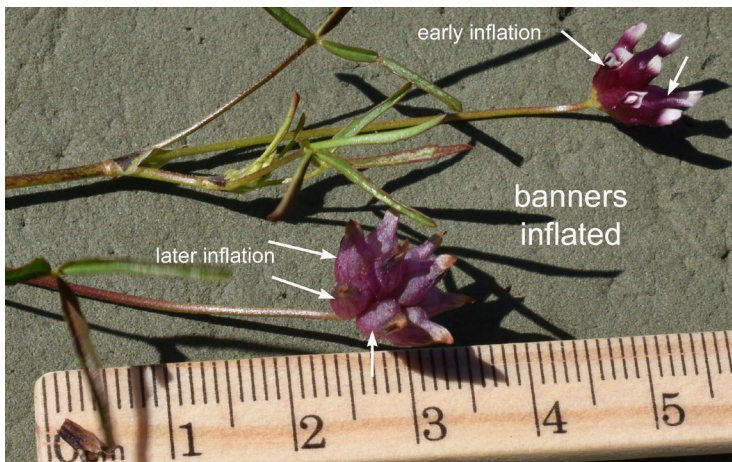


## Purple Trifolium Key



If flowerhead is sessile, [click here](#)

If not continue below



If banner inflated, [click here](#)

If not continue next page





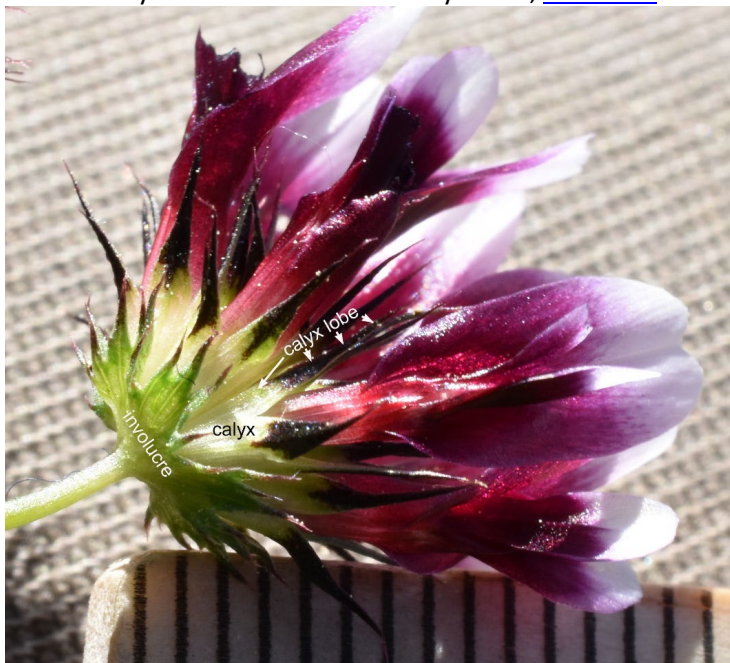
If it has vestigial ring involucre, [click here](#)

If not continue next page





If calyx lobe is shorter than calyx tube, [click here](#)



If calyx lobe is longer than calyx tube, [click here](#)



## Purple Lupine Key

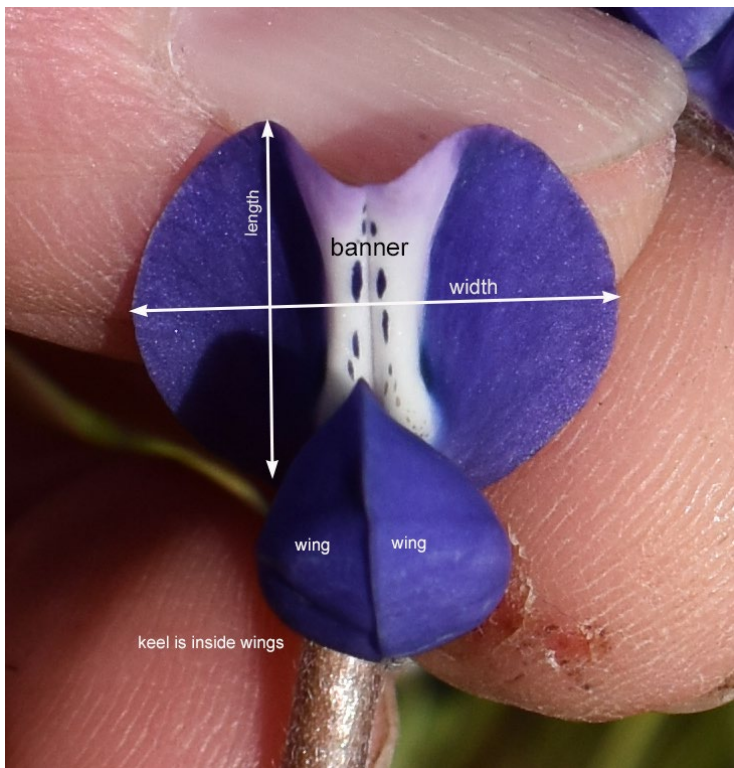


If it is a perennial shrub [click here](#)

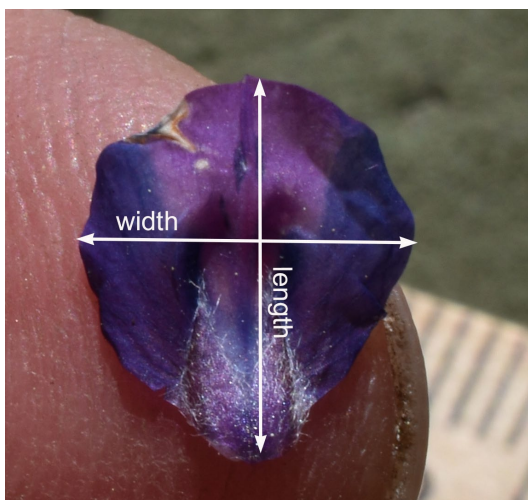
Otherwise continue to the annual lupines; the annual purple lupines are variable, intergrade with each other, and are difficult to distinguish: next page





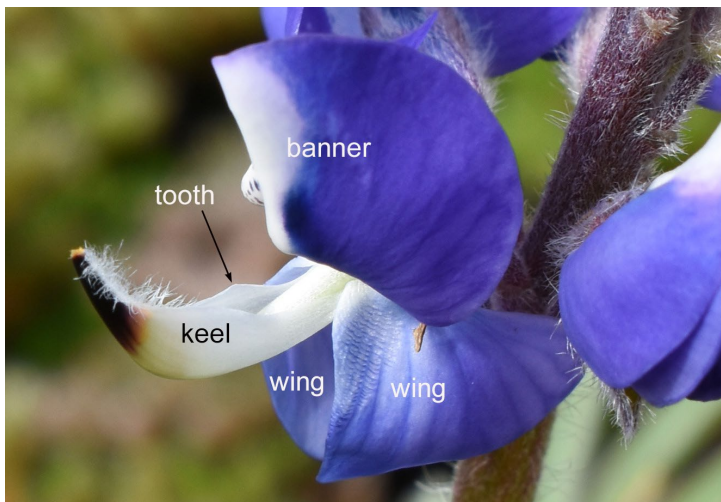


Banner as wide or wider than long, next page



Banner is longer than wide, 2<sup>nd</sup> next page

Banner is as wide or wider than long **and**:



(wings folded down) Keel is toothed [click here](#)

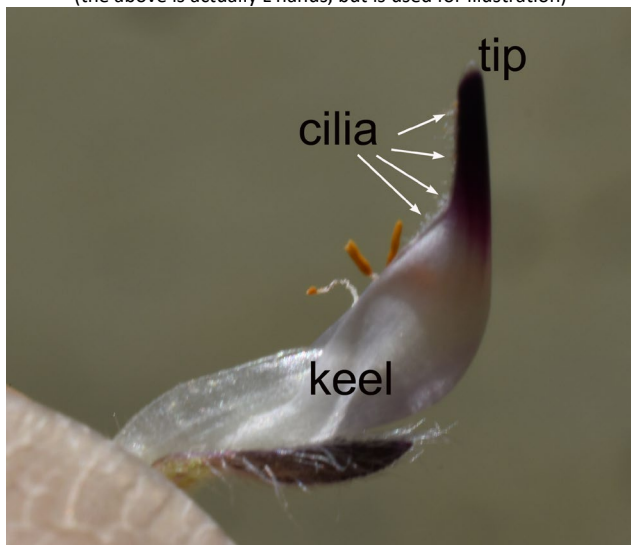


(wings, banner removed) Keel is not toothed, [click here](#)

Banner is longer than wide **and**:



(the above is actually *L. nanus*, but is used for illustration)

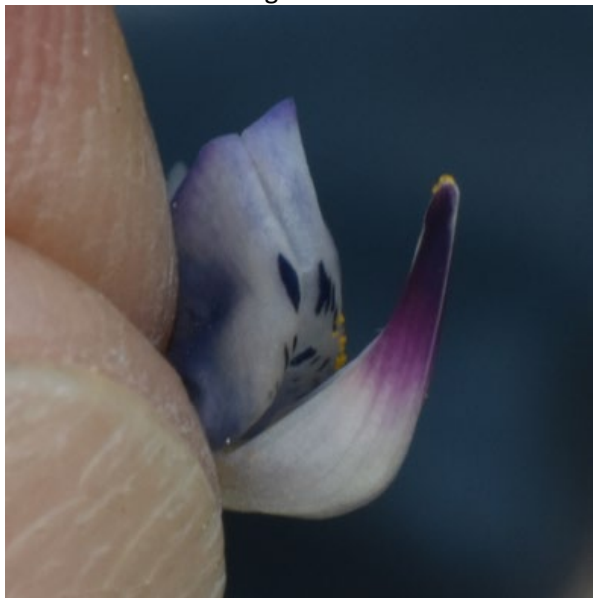


Fruit is 3-6 mm wide or keel is ciliate, [click here](#)

Or, see next page



Banner is longer than wide **and**:



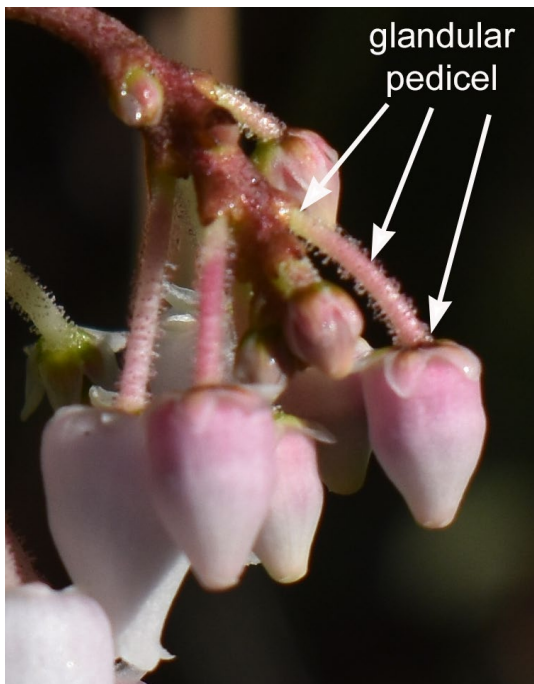
(wings removed)



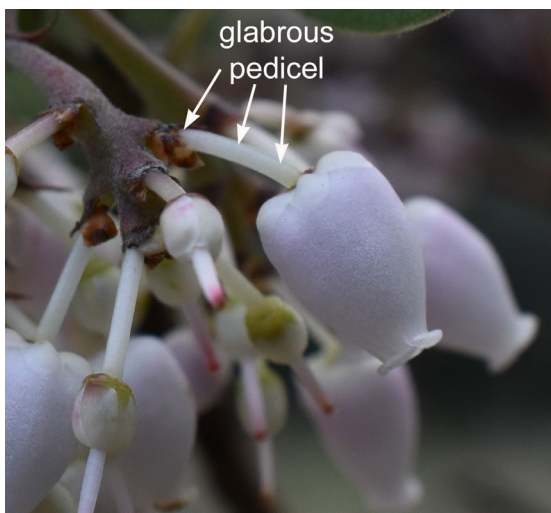
Fruit are 6-9 mm wide or keel glabrous (i.e., no hairs), [click here](#)



## Manzanita Key



If pedicels are glandular [click here](#)



If pedicels are glabrous [click here](#)

## Marah Key

### Corollas rotate-shaped



### Corollas cup-shaped

#### Cup-shaped pistillate flower



#### Cup-shaped staminate flower



## Morning-glory Key

If the stigma is like this:



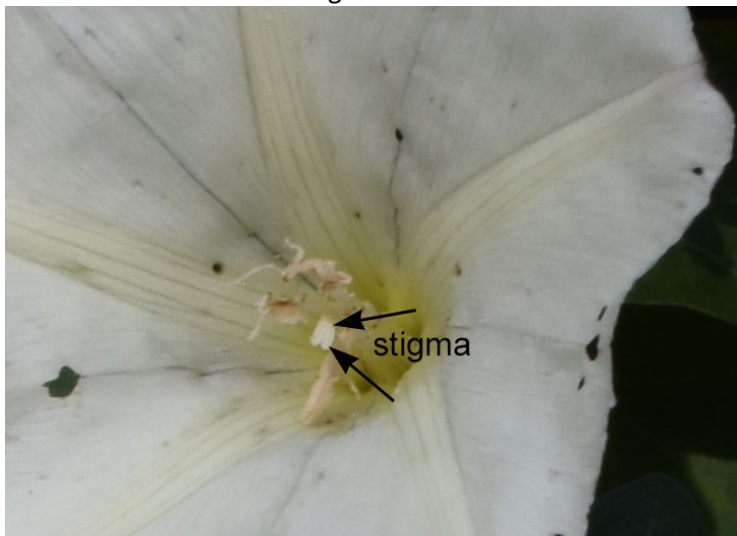
(Note: arrows point to the style & the stigma, both of which are parts of the pistil)

And the corolla size is 20-25 mm:



Then [click here](#), otherwise continue to next page

If the stigma is like this:



And corolla is 20-48mm:



Then [click here](#)

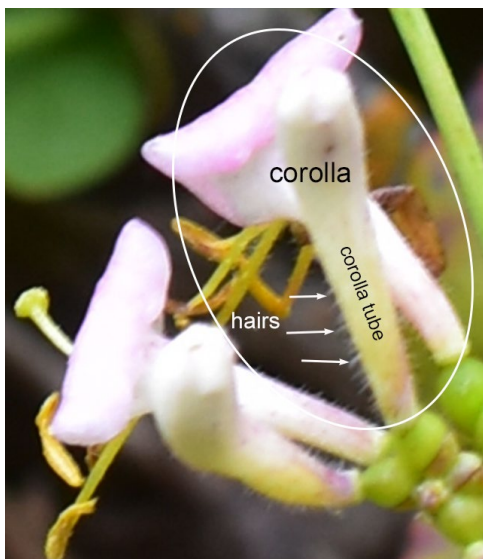


### Lonicera Key

If they are pink, they are *Lonicera hispidula*

If they are yellow, they are *Lonicera interrupta*

If they are in between, look if there are hairs on the corolla:



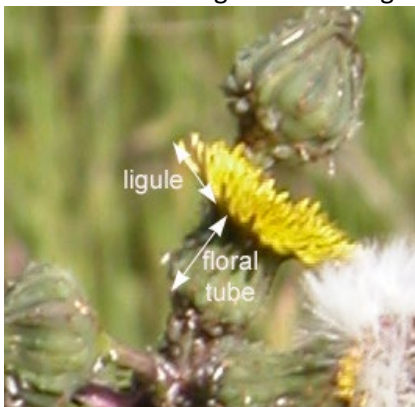
[Lonicera hispidula](#)



No hairs on corolla, [Lonicera interrupta](#)

## Sonchus Key


If the flora tube longer than the ligule:



And if leaf lobe clasping the stem is rounded (ignoring spines or toothed margin) and curved to coiled:



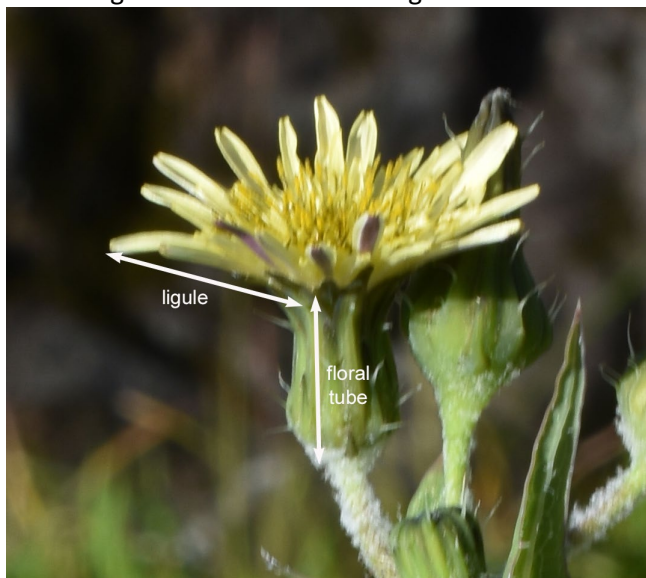
Then [click here](#)

Otherwise continue to next page 

If clasping lobes are acutely angled:



And ligules are about same length as floral tube:



Then [click here](#)

## Small Madia Key

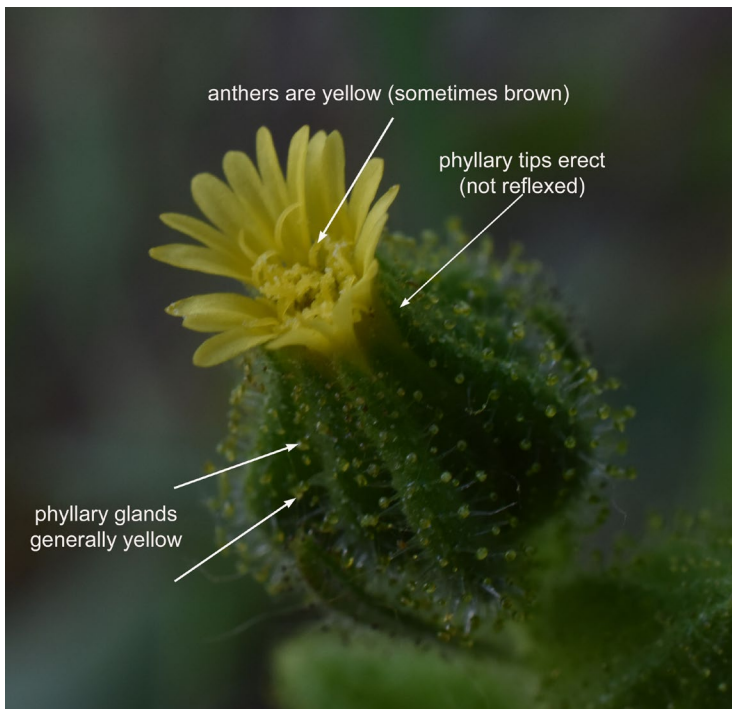


If your specimen is like this [click here](#)

Otherwise proceed to next page







Or if it is like this [click here](#)

## Sunflower Key

These are our yellow large (1-3 feet tall) species with both disc and ray flowers in the flower head (composite flowers).

Click on the photo that matches your specimen:



In particular compare the buds

### Star-thistle Key



Spines straw-colored. Spine 10-25 mm long. [Click here](#)



Spines mainly not straw-colored, usually with some purple.  
Spine 5-10 mm long. [Click here](#)

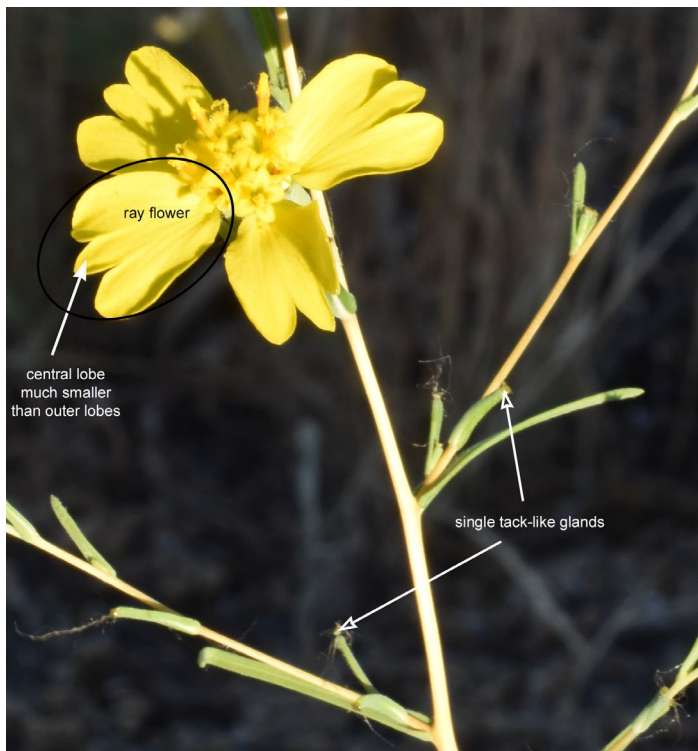
## Thistle Key

Look for red first, and then look at the spike pattern around the flowerhead. Click on the photo that matches:

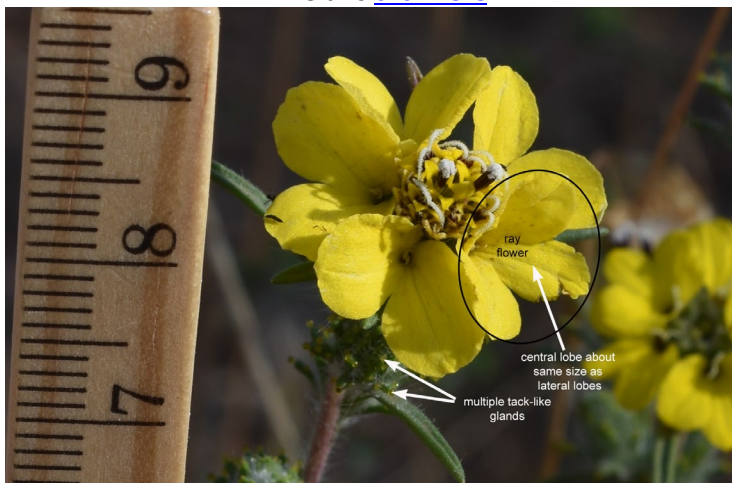




## Calycadenia Key



If like this [click here](#)



Or like this click [here](#)

### Perideridia Key



Flowerhead compact, plant usually about 2ft tall

[Click here](#)



Flowerhead more open, plant usually about 4ft tall

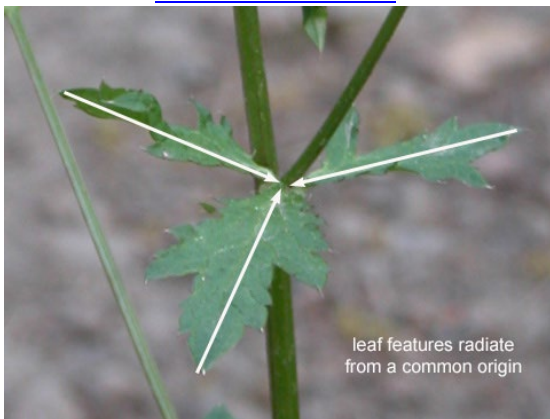
[Click here](#)

## Sanicula Key

Sanicles vary a lot. They tend to be much elongated vertically as they age much like a cabbage going to seed, so height is not much help in the identification. Leaf structure is important, but it is not obvious what is a leaflet and what is a leaf lobe.

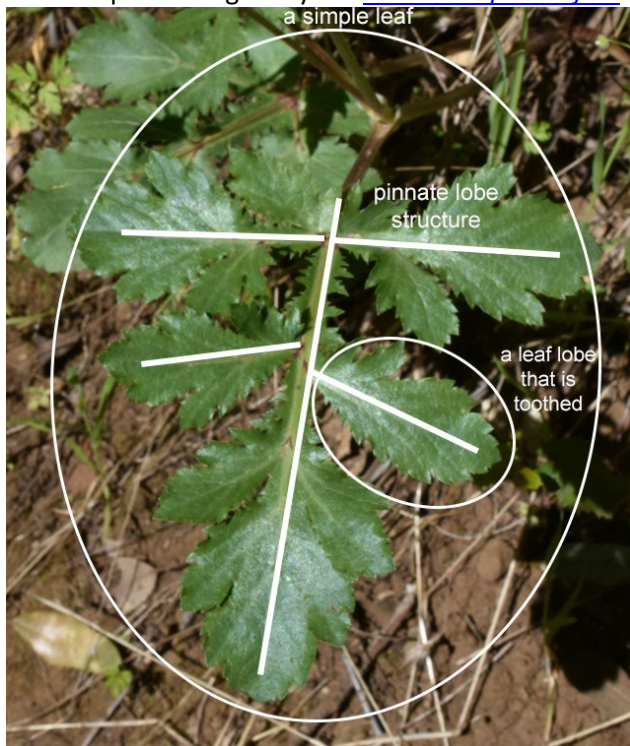
These leaves have a palmate structure, these are

[Sanicula crassicaulis](#):



*Continue to next page*

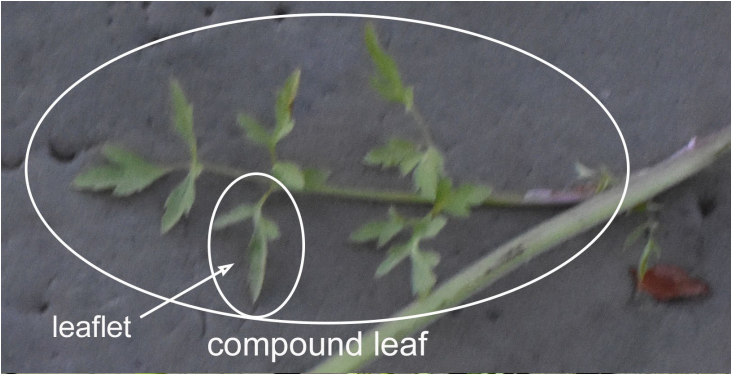
These leaves have a pinnate structure, but have lobes, not leaflets. It is scientifically considered a *simple leaf*, despite the complex lobing. They are *Sanicula bipinnatifida*:



*continue*



These are pinnately compound leaves:



*Continue below*

When the leaves are pinnately compound, you need to find specimen with fruit.

If the fruit have hooked prickles or if root is a swollen taproot it is [\*Sanicula bipinnata\*](#) (notice that the spelling is only slightly different for this species than *Sanicula bipinnatifida* above):



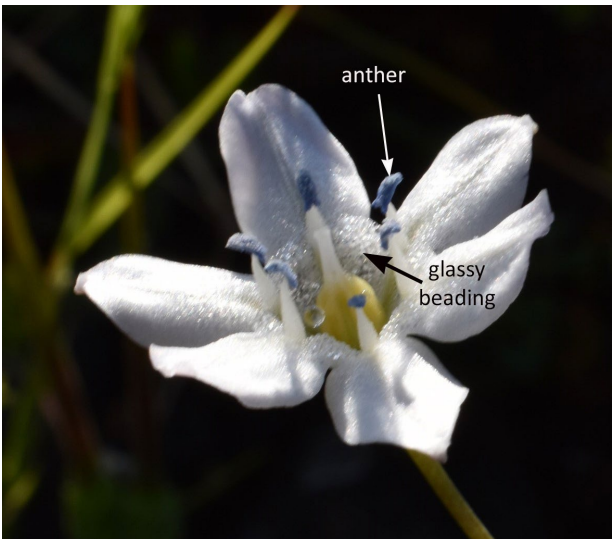
If the fruit have rounded tubercules or root has a spheric tuber it is *Sanicula tuberosa*. See [this photo](#) in CalPhotos of *Sanicula tuberosa* with rounded tubercules on its fruit. Here is [a photo](#) of the spheric tuber root of *Sanicula tuberosa*. We have not found *Sanicula tuberosa* along our recommended trails in Upper Park; it is known to live in some areas of the Park.

### White Mid-sized Key



if petals join at base to form tube with 5 petal-like lobes,  
[click here](#)

Otherwise continue below



If it has blue anthers and glassy beading  
then [click here](#), otherwise continue next page



if the perianth has green veins  
then [click here](#), otherwise continue below



If 6 relatively obvious ovary crests, [click here](#)  
Otherwise continue next page





these leaves

these leaves

if leaves like this, [click here](#)

### Soap Plant Key



If the leaves are over 4 mm wide and have wavy margins,  
[click here](#)

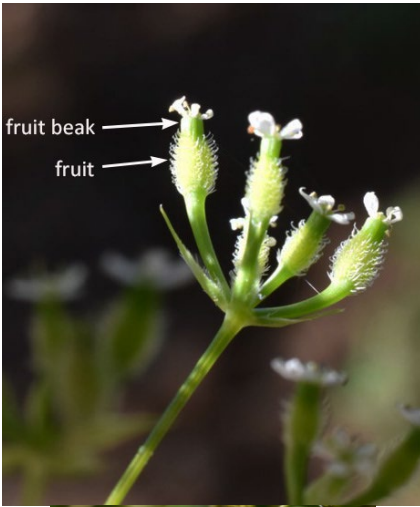


if the leaf margins are flat and the leaves 5 mm wide or less,  
[click here](#)

### Apiaceae bur key



if fruit are elongated, [click here](#)  
otherwise continue next page



if fruit are beaked like these, [click here](#)  
otherwise continue next page





if umbel is dense, [click here](#)  
otherwise continue below

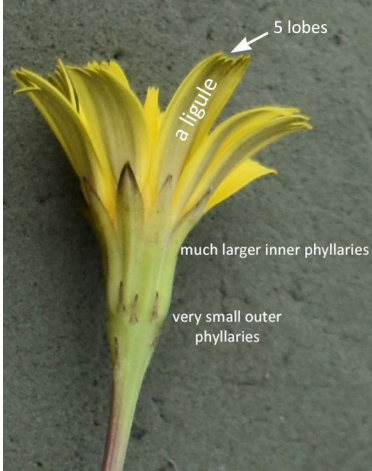


if umbel is open with no or minimal bracts, [click here](#)

**Asteraceae Group 8 key**  
(all with 5-lobed ligules, sap milky)



*See next page*



If nodding in bud and/or with very small outer phyllaries

[click here](#)

Otherwise continue next page



If the stem has alternate, scale-like leaves and



milky sap

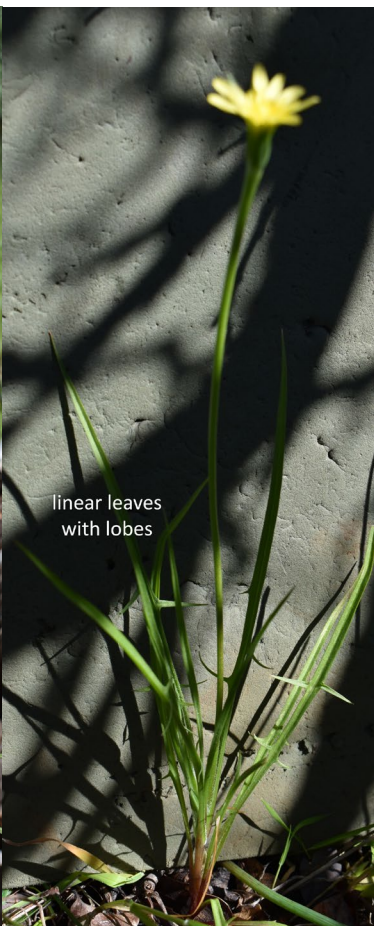
[click here](#)

otherwise continue next page





linear leaves  
without lobes



linear leaves  
with lobes

if leaves are linear

[click here](#)

otherwise continue next page



if the leaf lobes are in 7-9 pairs, especially if lobes are more angled toward leaf base [click here](#)  
otherwise continue next page



if leaf lobes are 2-5 pairs, especially if lobes are more angled toward the leaf tip and (if available) seeds are shaped like this,  
[click here](#)

## Yellow Lotus/Yellow Acmispon Key



4-flowered  
inflorescence

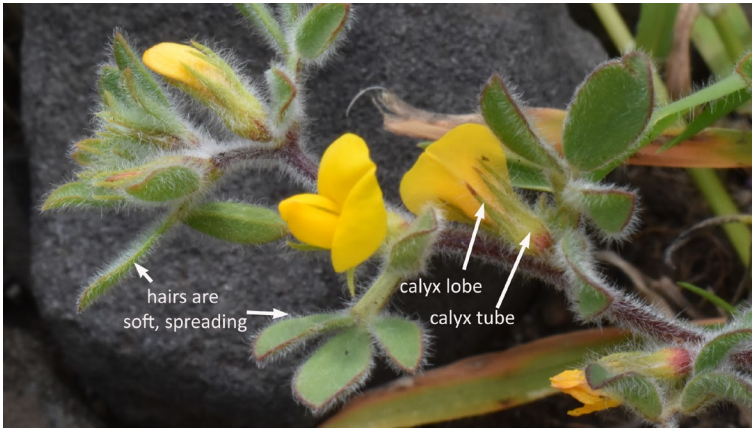
If inflorescence has more than one flower [click here](#)



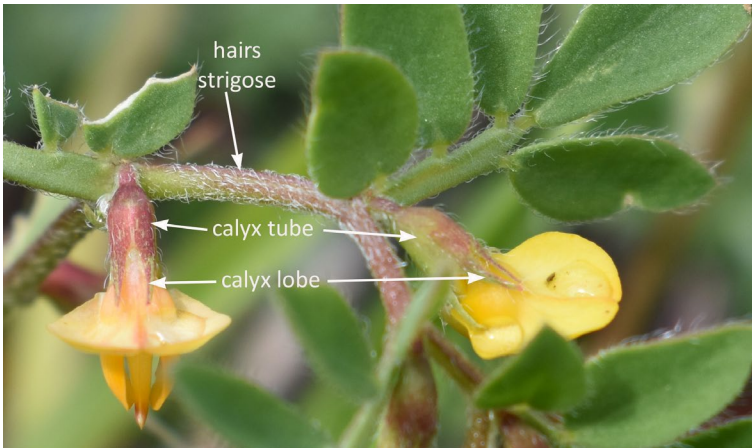
three inflorescences  
each with one flower

If inflorescence one-flowered continue next page





if calyx lobes are 1 to 2 times as long as calyx tube & hairs are soft, spreading then [click here](#).  
(if fruit are available they should be 3-4 mm wide)

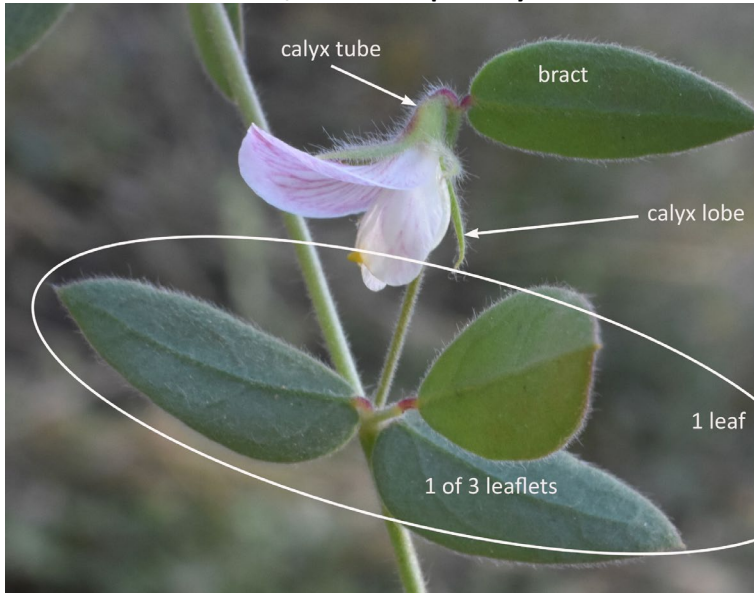


If calyx lobes are 0.8 to 1.2 times as long as calyx tube & especially if hairs are strigose (but they may be soft, spreading) then [click here](#)  
(if fruit are available they should be 2.3-3mm wide)

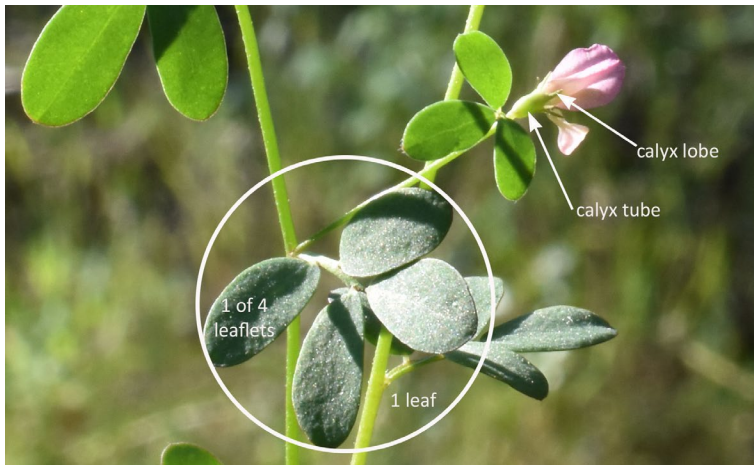


UC Berkeley > Jepson Herbarium > glossary [link](#)

### White/Pink *Acmispon* Key



Calyx lobes much longer than calyx tube & leaflets 3 or less per leaf Click [here](#)



Calyx lobes equal or less than as long as calyx tube & leaflets 3-9 per leaf Click [here](#)

## Nemophila Key



If spots on corolla lobes and/or colored veins, [click here](#)



If corolla veins not colored, [click here](#)



## Phacelia Key



if it is an annual that looks like this [click here](#)  
otherwise continue next page



If it has a single erect central stem something  
like above photo then [click here](#)  
otherwise continue below

Note: the next two intergrade sometimes, some plants  
are an intermediate of the two species, and sometimes  
won't key properly



if corolla narrowly bell-shaped, and calyx lobes overlapping when in fruit then [click here](#)  
otherwise continue next page





if corolla a more open bell-shaped &  
calyx lobes not overlapping in fruit

[click here](#)



# TAXA

## **Agavaceae**

[Chlorogalum angustifolium](#)

[Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum](#)

## **Alliaceae**

[Allium amplexans](#)

[Allium peninsulare var. peninsulare](#)

## **Anacardiaceae**

[Rhus aromatica](#)

[Toxicodendron diversilobum](#)

## **Apiaceae**

[Anthriscus caucalis](#)

[Daucus pusillus](#)

[Lomatium dasycarpum subsp. tomentosum](#)

[Lomatium macrocarpum](#)

[Lomatium utriculatum](#)

[Perideridia kelloggii](#)

[Perideridia oregana](#)

[Sanicula bipinnata](#)

[Sanicula bipinnatifida](#)

[Sanicula crassicaulis](#)

[Scandix pecten-veneris](#)

[Tauschia hartwegii](#)

[Torilis arvensis](#)

## **Apocynaceae**

[Apocynum cannabinum](#)

[Asclepias cordifolia](#)

[Asclepias eriocarpa](#)

[Vinca major](#)

## **Aristolochiaceae**

[Aristolochia californica](#)

## **Asteraceae**

[Achyrrachaena mollis](#)

[Agoseris grandiflora](#)

[Agoseris retrorsa](#)

[Baccharis salicifolia subsp. salicifolia](#)

[Calycadenia fremontii](#)

[Calycadenia oppositifolia](#)

[Calycadenia truncata](#)

[Carduus pycnocephalus subsp. pycnocephalus](#)

[Centaurea melitensis](#)

[Centaurea solstitialis](#)

[Centromadia fitchii](#)

[Cichorium intybus](#)

[Cirsium occidentale var. venustum](#)

[Cirsium vulgare](#)

[Eriophyllum lanatum](#)

[Euthamia occidentalis](#)

[Grindelia camporum](#)

[Helianthus bolanderi](#)

[Hypochaeris glabra](#)

[Lactuca serriola](#)

[Lagophylla glandulosa](#)

[Lasthenia californica subsp. californica](#)

[Lasthenia gracilis](#)

[Leontodon saxatilis](#)

[Lessingia nemaclada](#)

[Madia elegans](#)

[Madia gracilis](#)

[Madia subspicata](#)

[Matricaria discoidea](#)

[Pseudognaphalium ssp](#)

[Rafinesquia californica](#)

[Senecio vulgaris](#)

[Silybum marianum](#)

[Sonchus asper subsp. asper](#)

[Sonchus oleraceus](#)

[Symphyotrichum chilense](#)

[Uropappus lindleyi](#)

**Betulaceae**[Alnus rhombifolia](#)**Boraginaceae**[Adelinia grandis](#)[Amsinckia spp.](#)[Cryptantha spp.](#)[Plagiobothrys austiniae](#)[Plagiobothrys canescens var. canescens](#)[Plagiobothrys fulvus var. campestris](#)[Plagiobothrys glyptocarpus](#)[Plagiobothrys greenei](#)[Plagiobothrys humistratus](#)[Plagiobothrys nothofulvus](#)[Plagiobothrys scriptus](#)[Plagiobothrys shastensis](#)**Brassicaceae**[Athysanus pusillus](#)[Boechera breweri subsp. shastaensis](#)[Capsella bursa-pastoris](#)[Cardamine californica](#)[Cardamine oligosperma](#)[Draba verna](#)[Hirschfeldia incana](#)[Lepidium nitidum](#)[Nasturtium officinale](#)[Sisymbrium officinale](#)[Thysanocarpus curvipes](#)**Calycanthaceae**[Calycanthus occidentalis](#)**Caprifoliaceae**[Lonicera hispidula](#)[Lonicera interrupta](#)**Caryophyllaceae**[Cerastium glomeratum](#)[Lychnis coronaria](#)[Petrorhagia dubia](#)

[Sabulina californica](#)

[Sabulina douglasii](#)

[Saponaria officinalis](#)

[Silene gallica](#)

[Silene laciniata subsp. californica](#)

[Stellaria media](#)

**Comandraceae**

[Comandra umbellata](#)

**Convolvulaceae**

[Calystegia occidentalis subsp. occidentalis](#)

[Convolvulus arvensis](#)

**Cornaceae**

[Cornus glabrata](#)

**Crassulaceae**

[Dudleya cymosa subsp. cymosa](#)

[Sedella pumila](#)

[Sedum spathulifolium](#)

**Cucurbitaceae**

[Marah fabacea](#)

[Marah watsonii](#)

**Ericaceae**

[Arctostaphylos manzanita subsp. manzanita](#)

[Arctostaphylos viscida subsp. viscida](#)

**Fabaceae**

[Acmispon americanus var. americanus](#)

[Acmispon brachycarpus](#)

[Acmispon parviflorus](#)

[Acmispon wrangelianus](#)

[Cercis occidentalis](#)

[Glycyrrhiza lepidota](#)

[Lathyrus latifolius](#)

[Lathyrus sphaericus](#)

[Lathyrus sulphureus](#)

[Lotus corniculatus](#)

[Lupinus affinis](#)

[Lupinus albifrons var. albifrons](#)



[Lupinus bicolor](#)

[Lupinus microcarpus var. densiflorus](#)

[Lupinus nanus](#)

[Lupinus pachylobus](#)

[Medicago polymorpha](#)

[Melilotus albus](#)

[Melilotus indicus](#)

[Spartium junceum](#)

[Trifolium ciliolatum](#)

[Trifolium depauperatum](#)

[Trifolium dubium](#)

[Trifolium hirtum](#)

[Trifolium incarnatum](#)

[Trifolium repens](#)

[Trifolium subterraneum](#)

[Trifolium variegatum](#)

[Trifolium willdenovii](#)

[Vicia americana subsp. americana](#)

[Vicia sativa](#)

[Vicia villosa](#)

### **Gentianaceae**

[Centaurium tenuiflorum](#)

### **Geraniaceae**

[Erodium botrys](#)

[Erodium brachycarpum](#)

[Erodium cicutarium](#)

[Erodium moschatum](#)

[Geranium carolinianum](#)

[Geranium dissectum](#)

[Geranium molle](#)

### **Hydrangeaceae**

[Philadelphus lewisii](#)

### **Hydrophyllaceae**

[Nemophila heterophylla](#)

[Nemophila pedunculata](#)

[Phacelia cicutaria](#)

[Phacelia egena](#)

[Phacelia heterophylla var. virgata](#)

[Phacelia imbricata](#)

**Hypericaceae**

[Hypericum perforatum subsp. perforatum](#)

**Iridaceae**

[Iris macrosiphon](#)

**Lamiaceae**

[Lamium amplexicaule](#)

[Lepechinia calycina](#)

[Marrubium vulgare](#)

[Monardella sheltonii](#)

[Salvia rosmarinus](#)

[Scutellaria californica](#)

[Scutellaria tuberosa](#)

[Stachys rigida](#)

[Stachys stricta](#)

**Lauraceae**

[Umbellularia californica](#)

**Liliaceae**

[Calochortus luteus](#)

[Calochortus monophyllus](#)

[Calochortus superbus](#)

[Erythronium multiscapideum](#)

[Fritillaria affinis](#)

[Fritillaria recurva](#)

[Lilium humboldtii subsp. humboldtii](#)

**Lythraceae**

[Lythrum hyssopifolia](#)

**Malvaceae**

[Malva nicaeensis](#)

[Sidalcea calycosa subsp. calycosa](#)

[Sidalcea hartwegii](#)

[Sidalcea robusta](#)

**Melanthiaceae**

[Toxicoscordion venenosum var. venenosum](#)

**Montiaceae**[Calandrinia menziesii](#)[Claytonia parviflora subsp. parviflora](#)[Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata](#)**Myrsinaceae**[Lysimachia arvensis](#)**Namaceae**[Eriodictyon californicum](#)**Oleaceae**[Fraxinus latifolia](#)[Ligustrum lucidum](#)**Onagraceae**[Clarkia arcuata](#)[Clarkia purpurea subsp. quadrivulnera](#)[Clarkia rhomboidea](#)[Clarkia unguiculata](#)[Epilobium densiflorum](#)[Epilobium torreyi](#)**Orchidaceae**[Epipactis gigantea](#)**Orobanchaceae**[Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis](#)[Castilleja attenuata](#)[Castilleja exserta](#)[Castilleja lacera](#)[Triphysaria eriantha](#)**Papaveraceae**[Eschscholzia caespitosa](#)[Eschscholzia californica](#)[Eschscholzia lobbii](#)**Phrymaceae**[Diplacus douglasii](#)[Erythranthe arvensis](#)[Erythranthe glaucescens](#)[Erythranthe microphylla](#)**Phytolacceae**[Phytolacca americana var. americana](#)

**Plantaginaceae**[Collinsia heterophylla var. heterophylla](#)[Collinsia sparsiflora var. collina](#)[Collinsia tinctoria](#)[Keckiella breviflora var. glabrisepala](#)[Keckiella corymbosa](#)[Plantago erecta](#)[Plantago lanceolata](#)[Tonella tenella](#)**Polemoniaceae**[Gilia capitata](#)[Gilia tricolor](#)[Leptosiphon bicolor](#)[Leptosiphon ciliatus](#)[Microsteris gracilis](#)[Navarretia intertexta](#)[Navarretia tagetina](#)[Navarretia viscidula](#)**Polygalaceae**[Chorizanthe membranacea](#)[Rhinotropis cornuta var. cornuta](#)[Eriogonum nudum var. pubiflorum](#)**Primulaceae**[Primula clevelandii var. patula](#)**Ranunculaceae**[Clematis lasiantha](#)[Delphinium nudicaule](#)[Delphinium spp.](#)[Enemion occidentale](#)[Ranunculus californicus var. californicus](#)[Ranunculus canus var. canus](#)[Ranunculus muricatus](#)[Ranunculus occidentalis var. occidentalis](#)**Rhamnaceae**[Ceanothus cuneatus var. cuneatus](#)[Ceanothus integrerrimus](#)



[Frangula californica subsp. tomentella](#)

**Rosaceae**

[Cercocarpus betuloides var. betuloides](#)

[Drymocallis glandulosa var. glandulosa](#)

[Heteromeles arbutifolia](#)

[Prunus cerasifera](#)

[Pyrus calleryana](#)

[Rosa californica](#)

[Rubus armeniacus](#)

[Rubus ursinus](#)

**Rubiaceae**

[Cephalanthus occidentalis](#)

**Rutaceae**

[Ptelea crenulata](#)

**Sapindaceae**

[Aesculus californica](#)

**Saxifragaceae**

[Darmera peltata](#)

[Heuchera micrantha](#)

[Lithophragma bolanderi](#)

[Micranthes californica](#)

[Micranthes fragosa](#)

[Micranthes integrifolia](#)

[Micranthes nidifica](#)

**Scrophulariaceae**

[Scrophularia californica](#)

[Verbascum blattaria](#)

[Verbascum thapsus](#)

**Smilacaceae**

[Smilax californica](#)

**Solanaceae**

[Solanum parishii](#)

**Tecophilaceae**

[Odontostomum hartwegii](#)

**Themidaceae**

[Brodiaea californica](#)

[Brodiaea elegans subsp. elegans](#)

[Brodiaea sierrae](#)

[Dichelostemma congestum](#)

[Dichelostemma multiflorum](#)

[Dichelostemma volubile](#)

[Dipterostemon capitatus](#)

[Triteleia bridgesii](#)

[Triteleia hyacinthina](#)

[Triteleia laxa](#)

[Triteleia lilacina](#)

**Valerianaceae**

[Plectritis ciliosa](#)

[Plectritis macrocera](#)

**Verbenaceae**

[Verbena hastata](#)

**Viburnaceae**

[Sambucus mexicana](#)

**Vitaceae**

[Vitis californica](#)

Family: Agavaceae

[Chlorogalum angustifolium](#)

[NARROW-LEAVED SOAP PLANT](#)



These are beautiful, slender soap plants. They bloom overnight to be pollinated by night-flying insects.

*continues*



We found them blooming in the evening just before dark between Iron Canyon overlook and Parking Area P. Look for them blooming during May.

See Soap Plant key [here](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Agavaceae

[Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum](#)

[COMMON SOAP PLANT](#)



These are our larger and more common soap plant. They have large bulbs slightly below the ground surface, the bulbs have been [used for washing and food](#).

Although the stems are thin and the plants wave in the breeze, they can get 6 feet or more in height. They mostly bloom during the evening and night, with the flowers closing up during much of the daytime.

See our soap plant key to distinguish the two species of soap plant, click [here](#)

Below is a photo of a thicket of them at sunset on the Yahi Trail above Diversion Dam in late May:

*more next page*



Common Soap Plant

[Family: Alliaceae](#)  
[Allium amplexans](#)  
[Narrowleaf Onion](#)



Narrowleaf Onion have bulbs:



There are many at the sunny boggy spot at Iron Canyon Springs on the Yahí Trail blooming April into May. Compare them to similar species in our [White Mid-sized Key](#)

Family: Alliaceae

Allium peninsulare var. peninsulare

Peninsular Onion



A pretty little onion about 6-in tall, one of our favorites. They are found in small patches in a variety of locations, mainly between Bear Hole and T-Ford. Bloom time late April and May.



Family: Anacardiaceae

[Rhus aromatica](#)

[SKUNK BUSH](#)



Skunk Bush is a shrub that looks disconcertingly similar to Poison Oak. The leaves are more fuzzy, and the stems a bit different too. But beware, touch it only if you are sure it is Skunk Bush.

*continues*



Skunk Bush in fruit

Known to bloom in March and April. There are large patches  
trailside near Alligator Hole and on the Annie Bidwell Trail  
near J-Ford. [CalPhotos](#) [CalFlora](#)

Family: Anacardiaceae

[Toxicodendron diversilobum](#)

[WESTERN POISON OAK](#)



Poison Oak is common in Upper Park. It could be much worse, in ideal climates (cooler, wetter) it can dominant the landscape, for example upper Carmel Valley near Monterey.

It grows in an incredible variety of forms. It is commonly a knee or waist high shrub. But can be found as an ankle

height ground cover. In drier places it can be a towering, dense 10-foot shrub. In Upper Park it may also be found as vine in the trees with a vine diameter at the base of up to two inches. In the Ventana Wilderness above Big Sur, we have observed 6-inch diameter vines twisting up Coastal Redwood trees.

In many people Poison Oak oil triggers [Type IV Delayed Hypersensitivity Reaction](#).

It is most oily when lushly green, for example in April & May.

But the dried twigs retain the oil. Unfortunately, it is deciduous and is leafless in Fall and Winter. Also in sunny areas especially if drought conditions it may lose its leaves in early Summer.

Poison Oak is [the most hazardous plant in the state](#).

[Glyphosate & Triclopyr herbicide](#) is effective on Poison Oak.

It works best when the plant is fully leafed out and the weather is warm and dry. *EPA has concluded that there are no risks of concern to human health when glyphosate is used according to the label and that it is not a carcinogen source*. We recommend that land managers approve spraying poison oak along Upper Park trails in the month of May only. Later in the summer the leaves become more waxy or fall off, earlier the leaves are not fully developed. Also most wildflowers are done by May, and are much less susceptible to incidental overspray. Only the Poison Oak should be sprayed

Here are many photos of Poison Oak in its various forms:

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Apiaceae

[Anthriscus caucalis](#)

[BUR-CHERVIL](#)



Bur-chervil is commonly found in April and May in shady areas. It can grow up 2-3 feet tall. There are a lot on the cutoff trail by the Golf Course.

*continues*



Bur-chervil

If pollinated, their very small white flowers develop in burs which can stick to clothing or fur and seed themselves in a weedy fashion.

Compare to other similar species in the [Apiaceae bur key](#)

For more photos see [CalPhotos](#) (UC Berkeley)

For more information see [CalFlora](#) as well

Family: Apiaceae

[Daucus pusillus](#)

[American Wild Carrot](#)



The cultivated carrot, [Daucus carota](#), is in the same genus.

We don't know if they are edible; generally plants don't benefit by being eaten, and many have evolved toxicities to discourage it.

We found them in May in the vicinity of Iron Canyon on both the Annie Bidwell and Yahi sides.

CalPhotos have more photos available [here](#)

CalFlora [here](#)

Compare to similar species using our key, [click here](#)

*Another photo next page:*



American Wild Carrot



Family: Apiaceae

Lomatium dasycarpum subsp. tomentosum

Woolly-fruited Lomatium



Woolly-fruited Lomatium is fairly common in soil-filled crevices in the rock along Iron Canyon on both the Annie Bidwell and Yahi Trail sides.

*continues next page*



It blooms in late Feb-Mar, with woolly fruit in April. They are about a foot tall.

[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)

Family: Apiaceae

Lomatium macrocarpum

Large-fruited Lomatium



Large-fruited Lomatium are on the Yahí and Annie Bidwell Trails near Iron Canyon Turkey Vulture soaring area. It is less common than the other Lomatiums. Blooms in Feb-Mar.

Fully fruited in May. *continues*





Fruit forming



Full-sized fruit:



[Family: Apiaceae](#)  
[Lomatium utriculatum](#)  
[Common Lomatium](#)



Common and widespread in open, sunny areas in Upper Park. Long blooming season Feb-Apr. Notice that the leaf shapes vary on the same plant (above).

Stems can be redder, too:

*(see next page)*

[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)

[Family: Apiaceae](#)  
[Perideridia kelloggii](#)  
[Kellogg's Yampah](#)



This is our big Yampah. There is a nice patch on the Annie Bidwell Trail near the signpost right across the creek from Bear Hole. Also on the Yahi trail past Browns Hole. It blooms in June and July.

See [Perideridia Key](#)



[Family: Apiaceae](#)  
[Perideridia oregana](#)  
[Oregon Yampah](#)



This is our smaller Yampah.

It blooms in late May-early June. You can find occasional specimens along the Annie Bidwell Trail east of Bear Hole.

See [Perideridia Key](#)



[Family: Apiaceae](#)  
[Sanicula bipinnata](#)  
[POISON SANICLE](#)



Poison Sanicle are common in a number of habitats in Upper Park. They are maybe a foot tall and bloom mainly in Mar-Apr  
See [Sanicula Key](#) for proper identification

Family: Apiaceae

*Sanicula bipinnatifida*

PURPLE SANICLE, SHOE BUTTONS



This species blooms in two colors, each plant will have one color or the other. Here we have two plants side by side.

The purple version is easy to identify, the yellow version should be keyed to confirm; here is the [Sanicula Key](#).

Bloom Feb-Apr.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[Family: Apiaceae](#)  
[Sanicula crassicaulis](#)  
[Pacific Sanicle](#)



Pacific Sanicle are not very showy. We considered leaving them off this flower guide. They sprout up and become like an annoying garden weed.

*See next page*



But they are abundant on the woodland floor especially in the eastern reaches of Upper Park. And they could be confused with the other Sanicles. So we need them for comparison.

And besides they are a bit like a pup in an ugly dog contest, especially when compared to the popular Purple Sanicle.

Here is one as a baby:

*See next page*





The pebbly texture and palmate shape of the basal leaves are distinctive at this stage of growth. Blooms Feb-Apr.

here is the [Sanicula Key](#).

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Apiaceae

[Scandix pecten-veneris](#)

[VENUS' NEEDLE](#)



This is a weedy plant, about ankle height. It is either not common in Upper Park or we just don't notice it much. We found it once along the Annie Bidwell Trail in February.

Check CalPhotos for images of its fruit. The fruit is reminiscent of Erodium fruit (Storksbill, Filaree), even though they are in different families. An example of [convergent evolution](#). See [Apiaceae bur key](#)      [Cal Photos](#)      [CalFlora](#)

[Family: Apiaceae](#)  
[Tauschia hartwegii](#)  
[Hartweg's Tauschia](#)



Tauschia is a quirky favorite of ours. They live in a beautiful setting along the upper portions of the Yahí Trail. Look for them just past the wooden footbridge. Bloom in Feb-Mar.

Family: Apiaceae

[Torilis arvensis](#)

[TALL SOCK-DESTROYER](#)



Tall Sock-destroyer is a rather pretty, delicate plant a foot or two tall.

*the story continues:*





Under its small white flowers lurk fruit in the form of horrible burs. Walking through a patch of Sock-destroyer can coat your socks with many dozens of these barbed burs. Sometimes it is a wise course of action to toss the afflicted socks when you get home, as you will be plenty busy plucking the burs off your pants cuffs, fleece, and shoelaces as it is.

An officially designated invasive weed, [click here](#).

See our key to resolve your identification among similar appearing species, [click here](#).

[Family: Apocynaceae](#)  
[Apocynum cannabinum](#)  
[HEMP DOGBANE](#)



We have found Hemp Dogbane only at T-Ford; five other (along our trails) only-at-T-Ford species are Umbrella Plant, Streamside Orchid, California Pink Honeysuckle, Bouncing Bet Soapwort, and Wild Licorice. And Rose Campion perhaps as well. *continues next page*



They have elongated fruit developing sometime in Summer  
[photo link](#)

Don't let your dog eat it: ["from ancient use as dog poison"](#)

Family: Apocynaceae

[Asclepias cordifolia](#)

[PURPLE MILKWEED](#)



Our most showy member of the Milkweed genus. Look for them blooming at the edge of the oak woodland as you approach the Salmon Hole viewpoint on the Yahí Trail. They are about 2-3 feet tall.

The Purple Milkweed is a host plant for Monarch Butterfly caterpillars, although we have not yet observed any in Upper Park. [CalPhotos](#) [CalFlora](#)



Family: Apocynaceae

[Asclepias eriocarpa](#)

[KOTOLO](#)



Kotolo is a large milkweed about knee height in size. We have only found it at Day Camp blooming in late June. Like many Milkweeds it is a host species for the Monarch Butterfly caterpillars. Of the 4 milkweeds known in Upper Park, two are in this guide. The other two are off our surveyed trails (Showy Milkweed near U-Ford, and Narrow-leaf Milkweed at Diversion Dam Spring)

[CalPhotos](#)

[Cal Flora](#)

Family: Apocynaceae

[Vinca major](#)

**[GREATER PERIWINKLE](#)**



Vinca is considered [an invasive weed](#). It is more of a problem in milder climates, for example the coastal counties. In our area it may be found as an escaped garden plant at abandoned homesteads with a water source. It is at the pond on the furthest east end of the Annie Bidwell Trail.

Family: Aristolochiaceae

[Aristolochia californica](#)

[California Pipevine](#)



California Pipevine are common along the trails in the oak woodlands. They are an early bloomer, in January and February.

*continued*



Fungus gnats go inside and pollinate the flowers.



Here is the fruit.

*continues*





If Chico were to choose an official City butterfly, we would suggest the Pipevine Swallowtail. Watch this video to learn the fascinating relationship between the butterfly and the plant: [Aristolochia californica \(California pipevine\) - YouTube](#)



[Family: Asteraceae](#)  
[Achyrrachaena mollis](#)  
[Blow Wives](#)



These are intriguing species where the dried seedheads (white) are more dramatic than the blooming flowerhead (yellow). Look for them in the open grasslands along the Annie Bidwell Trail in April-May. The blooming flowerheads look like buds, but they don't open more than that while blooming. Here is a UC Berkeley [Jepson Herbarium video](#) about Blow Wives.

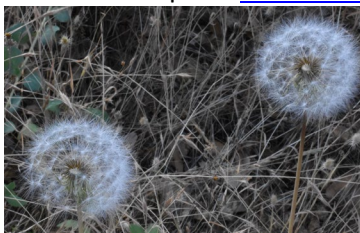
Family: Asteraceae

Agoseris grandiflora

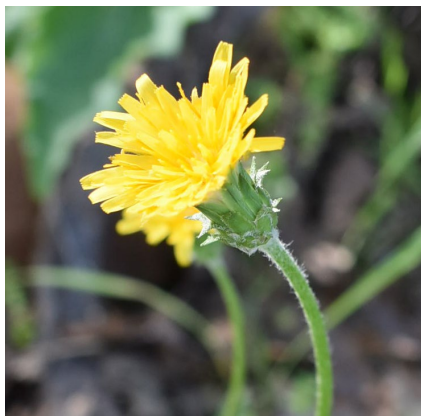
Large-flowered Agoseris



The Agoseris are not found often. We found this specimen on the Old Homestead loop hike from the pond at the east end of the Annie Bidwell Trail. They are fairly large, maybe two-feet tall. We have two similar species, use the key to tell them apart: [Asteraceae Group 8 key](#).



[Family: Asteraceae](#)  
[Agoseris retrorsa](#)  
[Spear-leaved Agoseris](#)



The Agoseris are not found often. We found this specimen on the Old Homestead loop hike from the pond at the east end of the Annie Bidwell Trail. They are fairly large, maybe two-feet tall.

[Asteraceae Group 8 key](#)

More photos: [CalPhotos](#) [CalFlora](#)



Family: Asteraceae

Baccharis salicifolia subsp. salicifolia

MULE FAT



We have only found Mule Fat at Alligator Hole on the Yahai Trail. It was blooming in early May. It is a large shrub, sometimes over 6 ft tall. It is much more common downstream into the Valley, especially along Lindo Channel.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[Family: Asteraceae](#)  
[Calycadenia fremontii](#)  
[Fremont's Rosin Weed](#)



These are about a foot tall. They brighten the trailside in June and early July when most other flowers have gone to seed. Look for them along the upper Annie Bidwell Trail in open, sunny areas.

Compare to the other yellow Calycadenia using [this key](#)

Also compare to [this](#)

Family: Asteraceae

Calycadenia oppositifolia

BUTTE COUNTY CALYCADENIA



This pretty, white Calycadenia may be found blooming during the month of May. We found it along the clifftop on Annie Bidwell Trail just south of the top of Iron Canyon Falls. It is about 6 inches tall. See more of our photos in [CalPhotos](#). [CalFlora](#)

[Family: Asteraceae](#)  
[Calycadenia truncata](#)  
[ROSIN WEED](#)



Rosin Weed blooms in June. We found it one time along the Yahí Trail in the vicinity of Iron Canyon. Our [Calycadenia Key](#) show the key differences between the yellow Calycadenias in Upper Park. Also compare to [this](#)

See the Berkeley repositories for more photos:

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



[Family: Asteraceae](#)

[Carduus pycnocephalus subsp. pycnocephalus](#)

[ITALIAN THISTLE](#)



This is a [weedy thistle](#). In fact, all three of the purple thistle species along our Upper Park trails are considered invasive weeds. Some of us like their spikey elegance, however.

They grow in various locations in Upper Park.

Look for them in April and May.

See the [Thistle Key](#) to tell them apart

Family: Asteraceae

Centaurea melitensis

TOCALOTE; MALTESE STAR-THISTLE



These are a couple feet tall. We found them blooming in May in the Iron Canyon area. Check the [Star-thistle Key](#) to compare them to their infamous cousin.

[Family: Asteraceae](#)  
[Centaurea solstitialis](#)  
[YELLOW STAR-THISTLE](#)



The infamous Yellow Star-thistle is our worst weed. It is innocuous in the cool season but has a growth spurt in late Spring, and develops its fearsome spines. Trails are sometimes blocked by dense populations of star-thistle. They bloom throughout the Summer, and are widespread. Low precipitation Springs stress them, but in wet years they can grow 4 feet or more tall.

*Continues next page*



Bees produce a flavorful, light honey from their nectar. They are an annual, and if you pull them up in early season they die and cannot produce next year's seeds. String trimming before they bloom works too.

Nature Conservancy burns Vina Plains Preserve in late Spring when the native flowers are mostly done, but before star-thistle blooms.

Check the [Star-thistle Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



[Family: Asteraceae](#)

[Centromadia fitchii](#)

[Fitch's Spikeweed](#)



Low-to-the-ground Spikeweed blooms May-July. We had a discussion once with a Bidwell Park commissioner who thought it must be a non-native invasive species, but it is actually a California native species. Can't always judge a plant by its spikes! Likely to find them in among the grasses around Bear Hole/Diversion Dam.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[Family: Asteraceae](#)

[Cichorium intybus](#)

[Common Chicory](#)



One of our bluest wildflowers\*. Often 2-3 feet tall, blooms May-July. Most likely to be found between Chico Canyon Trailhead and Fern Cliff.

Chicory has a detailed entry [in Wikipedia](#)



\*Occasionally white

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Asteraceae

[Cirsium occidentale var. venustum](#)

VENUS THISTLE



This is our favorite of the thistles. It happens to be native, while the purple thistles are naturalized and weedy in behavior. We found them in the Legacy Trail/upper Annie Bidwell Trail in early June. Early June is a good time to view the Humboldt Lillies on the Legacy Trail as well.

Compare on [Thistle Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Asteraceae

[Cirsium vulgare](#)

[BULL THISTLE](#)



Bull Thistle is quite elegant for being a weed. We don't see it much in Upper Park, partly because it blooms in late June.

We found it near Bear Hole on the Yahi Trail.

*Vulgare* is Latin for common; this a common thistle of [much of Europe](#)

Compare on [Thistle Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

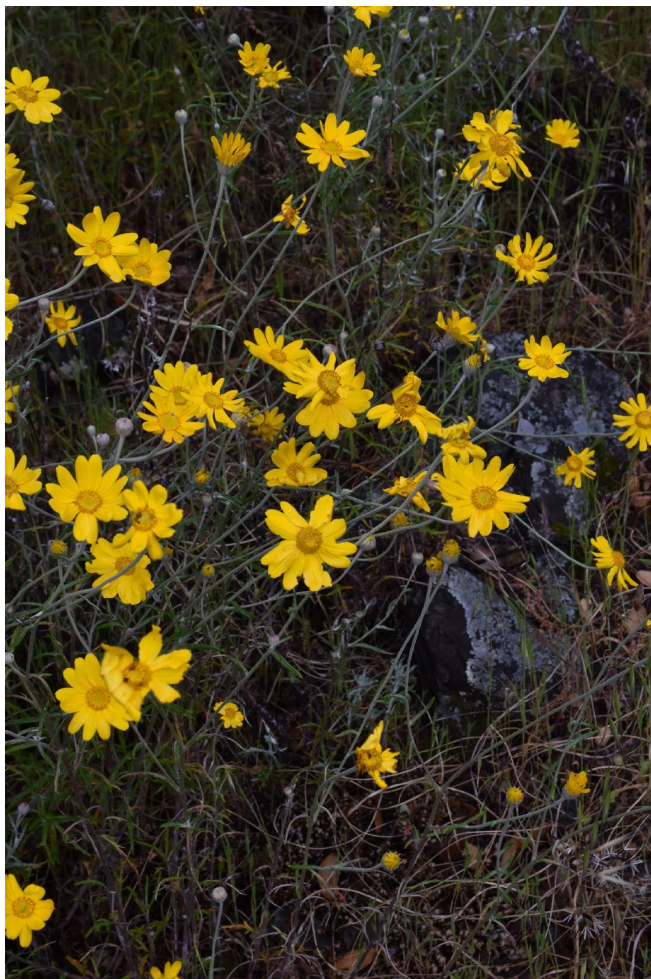
[CalFlora](#)



[Family: Asteraceae](#)

[Eriophyllum lanatum](#)

[COMMON WOOLLY SUNFLOWER](#)



Adorably non-symmetrical flowerhead of this sunflower is a common sight across Northern California from some of the highest mountains down to the Valley.

Look for them in Apr-May across Upper Park.

See our [Sunflower Key](#)

[Family: Asteraceae](#)  
[Euthamia occidentalis](#)  
[WESTERN GOLDENROD](#)



We found this just one time blooming in July near Diversion Dam Spring on the Yahí Trail. It is about 4 feet tall.

Family: Asteraceae

[Grindelia camporum](#)

[Common Gumplant](#)



These are 1-2 feet tall with distinctive flower buds which are sticky (gummy), at least in early flowering. Look for them blooming Feb-Jun, mainly in the Bear Hole/Diversion Dam area.

See our [Sunflower Key](#) to compare to similar species.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



[Family: Asteraceae](#)

[Helianthus bolanderi](#)

[BOLANDER'S SUNFLOWER](#)



The main population of Bolander's Sunflower along our trails in Upper Park is at a seep on the Yahi Trail just past Salmon Hole. It blooms starting in May and right through the heat of Summer and into Autumn. One of the showiest flowers in Upper Park, particularly during the dry season.

Compare with our [Sunflower Key](#).



[Family: Asteraceae](#)

[Hypochaeris glabra](#)

[SMOOTH CAT'S-EAR](#)



Smooth Cat's-ear are common in Upper Park grasslands. If you are a late riser, you might not think that is true. On a warm April mid-morning there may be thousands of them with their flowers open welcoming insects, but by afternoon they may be closed and looking like just some more blades

of grass. In our previous edition of this flower guide we had it misidentified. Review the [Asteraceae Group 8 Key](#) carefully.

The photo that follows are of two species, only one of which is Smooth Cat's-ear:



And these two species live intermingled with each other in the grass on the Yahi Trail at Diversion Dam.

Here is a Smooth Cat's-ear in seed:



[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[Family: Asteraceae](#)

[Lactuca serriola](#)

[PRICKLY LETTUCE](#)



This is a weedy species we found once between the Chico Canyon Trailhead and Fern Cliff. It was 3-4 feet tall in early July.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



[Family: Asteraceae](#)  
[Lagophylla glandulosa](#)  
[Glandular Hare-leaf](#)



A delightful little flower brightening the drying grasses in May-June. Look for them at ankle level along the Annie Bidwell Trail from Bear Hole up to the first junction with Legacy Trail. Hare-leaves bloom in the AM, and are [generally closed by mid-day](#)

[CalFlora](#)   [CalPhotos](#)

Compare to [yellow Calycadenias](#)

*Continue to next page*



Glandular Hare-leaf



Family: Asteraceae

[Lasthenia spp.](#)

[GOLDFIELDS](#)



Goldfields grow in masses and account fields and hillsides of yellow in many places in California. Look for them at the Iron Canyon Overlook (Parking Area O) on the Yahi Trail in late Feb to early Apr.

Along our trails in Upper Park we have two species of Lasthenia (hence the spp. plural for species). They can not be distinguished by their shape unless you look at their pappus. *continues*



This is:

[Lasthenia californica subsp. californica](#)  
[CALIFORNIA GOLDFIELDS](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

*continues*





This is:

[Lasthenia gracilis](#)  
[COMMON GOLDFIELDS](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Asteraceae

[Leontodon saxatilis](#)

[HAIRY HAWKBIT](#)



This is a common flower in sunny grassy areas in Upper Park.  
It mostly blooms in Mar-Apr.

Here is [our key](#) to distinguish it from other species.

What follows (next page) is an example of *Leontodon saxatilis* growing intertwined with *Hypochaeris glabra*:



Two different species of blooming yellow flowers in this photo

Family: Asteraceae

[Lessingia nemaclada](#)

[Slender-stemmed Lessingia](#)



We found these just once. On the Annie Bidwell Trail near the Golf Course blooming in Nov.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Asteraceae

[Madia elegans](#)

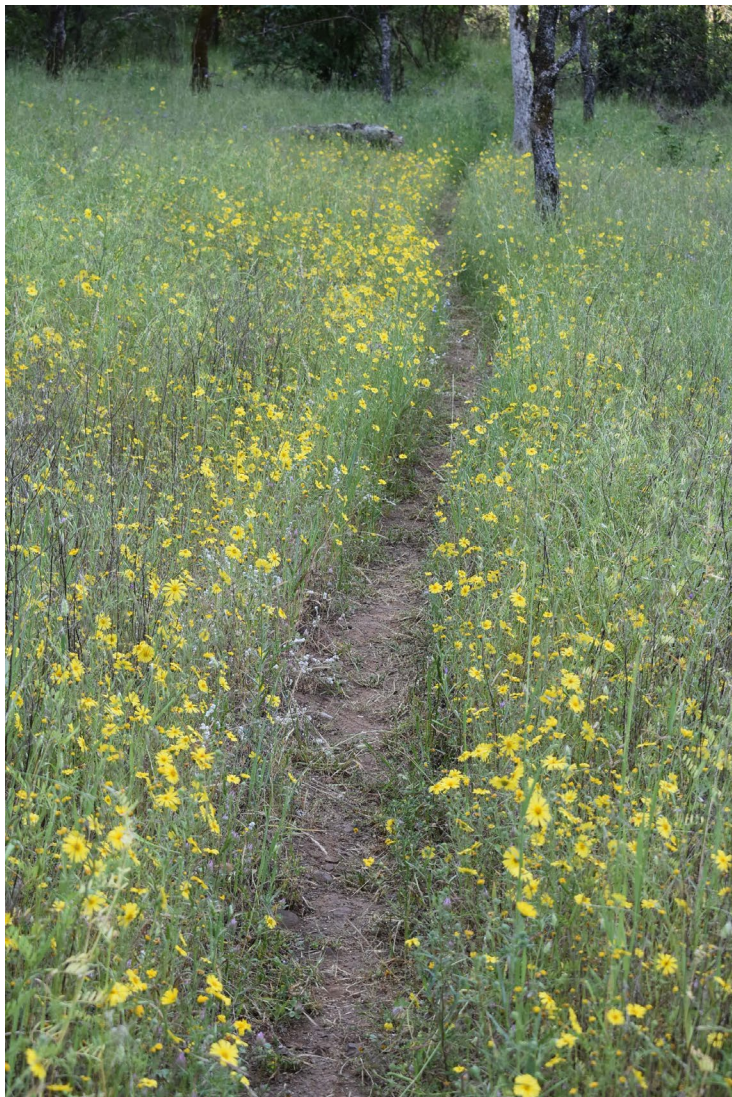
[COMMON MADIA](#)



Common Madia is a much-loved, cheerful flower of late Springtime. They can have occasional flowers into the Summertime, these used to be mistaken as a different species by the botanists. They are about two feet tall, and can be found in many locations along our Upper Park trails.

*Continues next page*

On the Legacy Trail there is an especially nice population filling a seasonal meadow in late April or early May:



*continues*

Common Madia will occasionally have brown-red centers



See our [Sunflower Key](#) for similar species

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Asteraceae

[Madia gracilis](#)

[GUMWEED](#)



We have found these in a variety of locations along our Upper Park trails. Generally blooming in May.

See our [Small Madia Key](#) to compare to a similar species

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Asteraceae

[Madia subspicata](#)

[Spiked Tarweed](#)



A somewhat obscure species, until 2023 CalPhotos lacked any photos of it. We have found it only occasionally in widely distributed locations, always blooming in May. Compare using [our key](#).

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Asteraceae

[Matricaria discoidea](#)

[PINEAPPLE WEED, RAYLESS CHAMOMILE](#)



They are a few inches tall. A familiar urban weed from vacant lots over much of California, a native species that has thrived in urbanization. You may find them along the trails in disturbed area (eg edges of parking lots, creekbanks). We have observed them blooming in Mar-Apr

Family: Asteraceae

Pseudognaphalium californicum x stramineum

Everlasting



These are found at the edge of the Annie Bidwell Trail at Rock Wall Seeps. Blooming Apr-early May. It appears to be a hybrid of Pseudognaphalium californicum & Pseudognaphalium stramineum with features from both.

*Continue next page*

Here they are dried in late May:





Family: Asteraceae

[Rafinesquia californica](#)

[CALIFORNIA CHICORY](#)



We found these once near Salmon Hole Viewpoint on the Yahi Trail in early May. [CalPhotos](#) [CalFlora](#)



Family: Asteraceae

[Senecio vulgaris](#)

[COMMON GROUNDSEL](#)



This is a very common worldwide weed. You may find it occasionally in many areas of Upper Park, most likely Jan-Mar. Probably easier to find in your garden where they should be removed.

Note: the above photo is in full bloom, they have no ray flowers. Compare to the Sonchus genus a couple of pages forward, their buds look similar but when Sonchus open there are ray flowers.

[Family: Asteraceae](#)

[Silybum marianum](#)

[Saint Mary's Milk Thistle](#)



They certainly have some fearsome spikes. In Butte County they tend to congregate under Valley Oaks, especially where grazed. On Table Mountain you can find impenetrable populations 5 feet high, but mainly just under the oaks to easy to walk around. There are some in Upper Park at the Golf Course Cutoff trail blooming in Apr-May.

Compare on [Thistle Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Asteraceae

[Sonchus asper subsp. asper](#)

[PRICKLY SOW THISTLE](#)



Certainly, a strong contender for the ugliest flower award! May be found in disturbed areas, like near the golf course, and near Bear Hole. Blooms in California all year, we found it mostly in Springtime.

They vary a lot and can be difficult to distinguish from the other Sonchus; see our [Sonchus Key](#).



Family: Asteraceae

[Sonchus oleraceus](#)

[COMMON SOW THISTLE](#)



We occasionally found them blooming in Mar-Apr on the Yahí and Annie Bidwell Trails in vicinity of Iron Canyon.

They vary a lot and can be difficult to distinguish from the other Sonchus; see our [Sonchus Key](#).

Family: Asteraceae

[Symphyotrichum chilense](#)

[Pacific American-aster](#)



Not often found in Upper Park. This specimen was creekside at J-Ford blooming in November. It is reported in CalFlora at Bear Hole and Alligator Hole, as well. About 2 ft tall.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Asteraceae

[Uropappus lindleyi](#)

[Lindley's Silverpuffs](#)



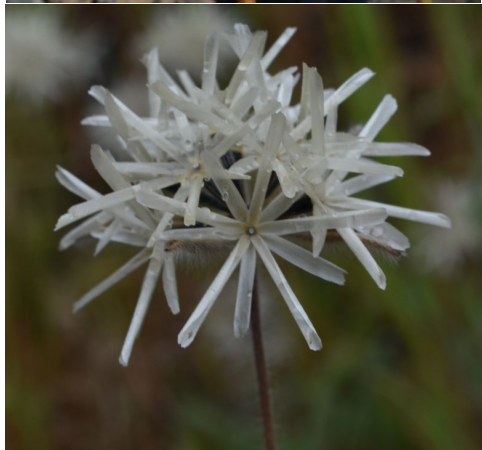
Found blooming Feb-Apr in the grasslands on both sides of Iron Canyon. See [Asteraceae Group 8 Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#) [CalFlora](#)

See seed photos next page



youngest



oldest



Family: Betulaceae

[Alnus rhombifolia](#)

[WHITE ALDER](#)



White Alder are ubiquitous along Big Chico Creek, blooming in January.



[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)



Family: Boraginaceae

[Adelinia grandis](#)

[ADELINIA](#)



A gorgeous species! Found in semi-shade under the oaks across much of Upper Park. Look for them blooming in Feb-Mar. One of the few blue wildflowers. ➡





Family: Boraginaceae

[Amsinckia](#)

[FIDDLENECK](#)



Fiddlenecks commonly brighten our grasslands with a sprinkling of orange. Their flowers are arranged in a coil.

*continued*



There are reportedly 4 species of *Amsinckia* in Upper Park, and some of the specimens we encounter vary significantly from each other. However, the [Jepson identification key](#) would require a scalpel and dissecting microscope. And even then, the official species are known to hybridize and/or have multiple intermediate varieties. It is thought that the two most common species [might](#) be better classified as a single species. So we enjoy their beauty and just refer to them by their genus name, and leave the species designation to genetic studies by the university plant scientists.

Family: Boraginaceae  
Cryptantha spp



These are found occasionally. This was along the Yahi Trail at Parking Area P.

If nutlets smooth like [this](#), click [here](#)

If nutlets textured like [this](#), click [here](#)

See our [Popcornflower Key](#)

Family: Boraginaceae

[Plagiobothrys austiniae](#)

[AUSTIN'S SPINY-NUT POPCORNFLOWER](#)



We found this in the boggy area along the Yahí Trail just past Salmon Hole trail. Look for them blooming in March.

See our [Popcornflower Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Boraginaceae

[Plagiobothrys canescens var. canescens](#)

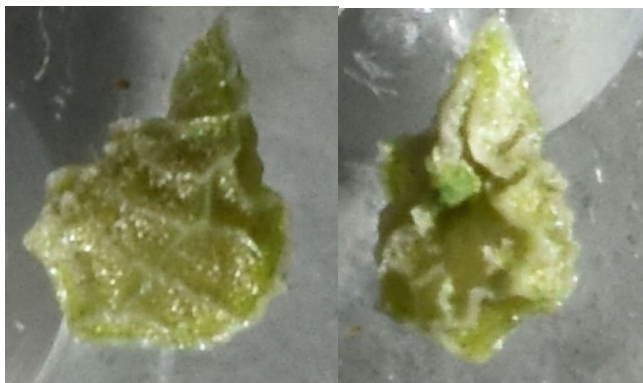
[VALLEY POPCORNFLOWER](#)



These are maybe a foot tall. Found blooming in Mar-Apr. Rather weedy, and maybe found on trail and dirt road edges along with the *Erodium bothrys* (as seen in this photo)

See our [Popcornflower Key](#)

See the next page for nutlet photos:



*Valley Popcornflower nutlets*

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Boraginaceae

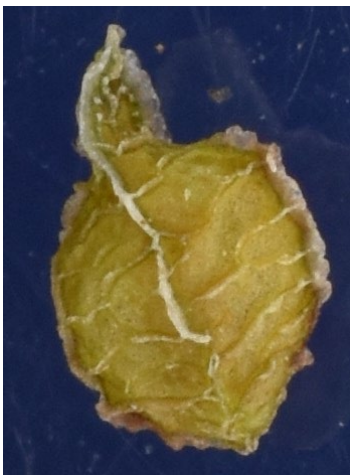
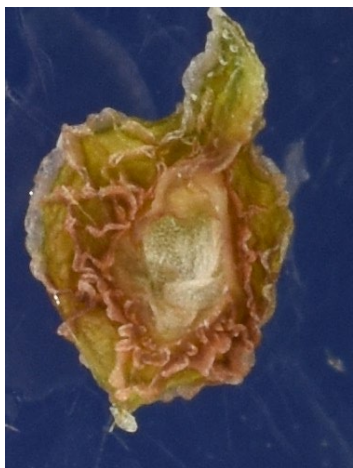
[Plagiobothrys fulvus var. campestris](#)

[FIELD POPCORNFLOWER](#)



About a foot tall. Look for them blooming in Mar-Apr in sunny grasslands. There seems to be more along the Annie Bidwell Trail than the Yahí Trail.





*Field Popcornflower nutlet (same one, top and bottom)*

See our [Popcornflower Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Boraginaceae

[Plagiobothrys glyptocarpus](#)

[SCULPTURED-NUT POPCORNFLOWER](#)



These are small, but elongate as they get older. We have found them in Mar-Apr along the Yahí Trail in the boggy areas at Iron Canyon Springs and just past Salmon Hole.

See our [Popcornflower Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Boraginaceae

[Plagiobothrys greenei](#)

[GREENE'S SPINY-NUT POPCORNFLOWER](#)



We have found these blooming in Mar-Apr along the Yahai Trail just past Salmon Hole trail in a sunny boggy area. They elongate as they become older

See our [Popcornflower Key](#)

Family: Boraginaceae

[Plagiobothrys humistratus](#)

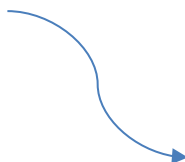
[LOW POPCORNFLOWER](#)



We have found these blooming in Feb-Apr along the Yahí Trail just past Salmon Hole trail in a sunny boggy area.

See our [Popcornflower Key](#)

more next page





*Low Popcornflower nutlets*

[CalFlora](#)[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Boraginaceae

[Plagiobothrys nothofulvus](#)

[RUSTY POPCORNFLOWER, FOOTHILL SNOWDROPS](#)



The are common in grassy areas of Upper Park. Maybe 1-2 ft tall. Bloom period Feb-Apr.

See our [Popcornflower Key](#)

more





*Foothill Snowdrops fruit & nutlets*

Observe how cap pops off. They have a definite seam, give one a gentle tug to help confirm identification

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Boraginaceae

[Plagiobothrys scriptus](#)

[SCRIDGEE'S POPCORNFLOWER](#)



These are very small. We find them along the Yahi Trail in the boggy area just past Salmon Hole trail. Blooming in Mar-Apr.

See our [Popcornflower Key](#)

Family: Boraginaceae

[Plagiobothrys shastensis](#)

[SHASTA POPCORNFLOWER](#)



Up to a foot tall. We have found the along the Yahí Trail from Bear Hole to Iron Canyon overlook (Parking Area O side trail) Look for them blooming in Mar-Apr.

See our [Popcornflower Key](#)





*Shasta Popcornflower nutlets*

[CalFlora](#)[CalPhotos](#)

[Family: Brassicaceae](#)

[Athysanus pusillus](#)

[Common Sandweed](#)



A common plant in California, perhaps not often noticed due to its small size. This photo was taken in February.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

More photos next page





Common Sandweed

Lives in a variety of habitats, these were near Annie Bidwell Trail/ Legacy Trail junction (west).

Family: Brassicaceae

[Boechera breweri subsp. shastaensis](#)

[SHASTA ROCKCRESS](#)



A beautiful plant about a foot tall. Lives on rock outcrops, especially around Parking Area R swimming hole junction on the Yahi Trail.





Blooms mostly in February, here are its fruit in April:

[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)

Family: Brassicaceae

[Capsella bursa-pastoris](#)

[SHEPHERD'S PURSE](#)



Not common, or maybe overlooked. We found these blooming in March along the Golf Course cutoff, near the bridge. About half a foot tall

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Brassicaceae

[Cardamine californica](#)

[MILK MAIDS, TOOTH WORT](#)



A favorite very early season bloomer, it celebrates the birth of the new year's flower season. They are in partially shaded places across much of Upper Park. Bloom time is mainly Jan-Feb.





They come in this color as well

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)




Family: Brassicaceae

[Cardamine oligosperma](#)

[Little Western Bitter-cress](#)



Little Western Bitter-cress is common in Upper Park and probably in your garden as well. Blooms Jan-Feb. Note that its early leaves differ greatly from its younger leaves, see additional photos next page 



Family: Brassicaceae

[Draba verna](#)

[Vernal Draba](#)



We find this blooming in January on the Annie Bidwell Trail when approaching Alligator Bluff just past the Golf Course. It is very small, you have to look closely.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Another two photos next page







Family: Brassicaceae

[Hirschfeldia incana](#)

[Shortpod Mustard](#)



A familiar, rather gentle weed. Found a number of locations, perhaps most likely near Day Camp on the Yahí Trail. Known to bloom Apr-Oct, especially in May.

Compare to [Sisymbrium officinale](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Brassicaceae

[Lepidium nitidum](#)

[Shining Peppergrass](#)



Very small flower common on open grassy-rocky areas.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Brassicaceae

[Nasturtium officinale](#)

[WATER CRESS](#)



The is a plant that lives in slow-moving water. We have not found it in recent years; this photo was on the Yahi Trail at Salmon Springs (Salmon Hole), the month is not known.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Brassicaceae

[Sisymbrium officinale](#)

[HEDGE MUSTARD](#)



Widespread in Upper Park, tends to be in tall grass in partial shade. Often 1-2 feet tall, and bloom in April-early May

Compare to [Hirschfeldia incana](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Another photo next page







Family: Brassicaceae

[Thysanocarpus curvipes](#)

[Common Fringepod](#)



This common Upper Park species range widely from 0.5-3 ft tall. It lives in open grasslands and blooms Jan-Mar.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

continues



### Common Fringepod in fruit:



Family: Calycanthaceae

[Calycanthus occidentalis](#)

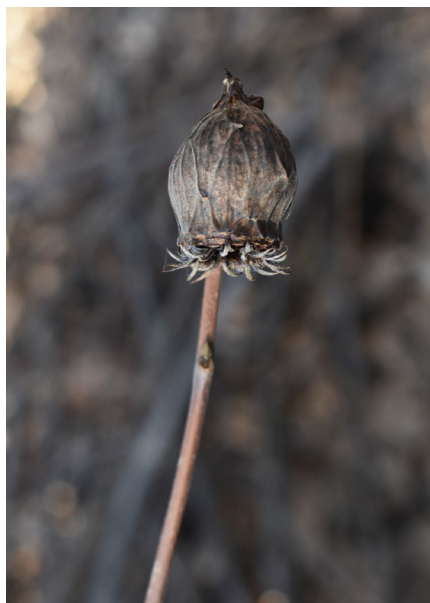
[SWEET-SHRUB, SPICEBUSH](#)



Spicebush is a spectacular large shrub (up to ten feet tall) usually along perennial seeps and springs. They are abundant at Salmon Springs. The blossoms are large, perhaps two inches across. Look for them in flower in May and early June.

*continues*





To identify them outside of flowering season look for their distinctive fruit, which may linger on the mother plant long after the seeds have been dispersed.

They are the only member of the family Calycanthaceae native to California, but what makes them special to us are their radiant flowers emerging from the dense foliage of the aromatic Spicebush thickets.

Family: Caprifoliaceae

[Lonicera hispidula](#)

[California Pink Honeysuckle](#)



Our partially pink honeysuckle is on the Yahí Trail at T-Ford. Blooms in late May-early June. See [our key](#) to tell apart from the other, usually yellow honeysuckle

Family: Caprifoliaceae

[Lonicera interrupta](#)

[Connate-leaf Chaparral Honeysuckle](#)



Our usually yellow honeysuckle lives in a variety of different places in Upper Park. If it has much white or a little pink see [our key](#) to distinguish it from the other honeysuckle.

Blooms in May and early June.

Family: Caryophyllaceae

[Cerastium glomeratum](#)

[STICKY MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED](#)



These are about 6 inches tall. Found in a few places along the middle portions of the Annie Bidwell Trail, blooming in April



Family: Caryophyllaceae

[Lychnis coronaria](#)

[ROSE CAMPION](#)



These are a couple feet tall. We find them near T-Ford on the Legacy Trail blooming in June. It is a naturalized garden escapee that is [recommended in Britain](#) by the Royal Horticultural Society.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Caryophyllaceae

[Petrorhagia dubia](#)

[Wilding Pink](#)



This a delightful species, it is like a blade of grass with a bright pink flower on top. They may be found in many places in Upper Park, blooming particularly in May.

Family: Caryophyllaceae

[Sabulina californica](#)

[CALIFORNIA SANDWORT](#)



A very pretty little plant of open, sunny, thin soils. Common on both Annie Bidwell and Yahi Trails in the area of Iron Canyon. Look for them blooming Jan-mid Apr. They often grow in masses, see next page





[Compare to Sabulina Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Caryophyllaceae

[Sabulina douglasii](#)

[DOUGLAS' STITCHWORT](#)



Low-growing Douglas' Stitchwort is found in thin soils along the Annie Bidwell and Yahi Trails on both sides of Iron Canyon. They are about 4 inches tall and bloom Mar-early May.

[Compare to Sabulina Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Caryophyllaceae

[Saponaria officinalis](#)

[Bouncing Bet Soapwort](#)



We found at T-Ford one time in mid-July. It is 1-2 feet tall. It is a common garden plant which has naturalized itself to wild areas. It is a perennial so it should be there in the sand on the edge of the creek on the Yahí side unless it got swept away by winter floods. [More information](#)

Family: Caryophyllaceae

[Silene gallica](#)

[SMALL-FLOWER CATCHFLY, WINDMILL PINK](#)



These are weedy and may be easier to find in an urban vacant lot than along a wildland trail in Upper Park. We found some near Diversion Dam and Salmon Hole on the Yahi Trail during the month of April.

*continues*



The hairs on the pedicel and calyx are useful for identification.



Family: Caryophyllaceae

[Silene laciniata subsp. californica](#)

[CALIFORNIA PINK](#)



California Pink are a favorite for beginners, as they are easy to spot and to identify (no other local species looks similar). They are a native species [sometimes used in home gardens](#).

They may be found in the oak woodland along the upper Yahi Trail, especially near the junction with the spur trail (abandoned) to parking Area R. We've found them mostly in April.

[Cal Photos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Caryophyllaceae

[Stellaria media](#)

[COMMON CHICKWEED](#)



Chickweed can be quite small, this one is 1-2 inches. Blooms starting January and continues into April. As it ages it can get much bigger and lanky (see photo next page)





They are widespread in Upper Park

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Comandraceae

[Comandra umbellata subsp. californica](#)

[California Bastard Toadflax](#)



Rarely noticed species, but it has a family story to tell. Only found occasionally; we've found them in May near Browns Hole, and once long ago near Diversion Dam. It is the only species of its family that lives in California.

[Calphotos](#) [CalFlora](#)



See Comandra/Apocynum key  
here



Family: Convolvulaceae

[Calystegia occidentalis subsp. occidentalis](#)

[Western Morning-glory](#)



Our attractive native morning-glory. See [our key](#) to distinguish from related species. We found it blooming in May and June along the Legacy Trail west of Lovejoy Falls.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Convolvulaceae

[Convolvulus arvensis](#)

[BINDWEED, ORCHARD MORNING-GLORY](#)



An attractive weed. Bane of organic gardens and orchards, as pulling breaks it off and the remaining roots resprout. Glyphosate (active ingredient in Roundup) works well. Likely to be found blooming in May and June along the Annie Bidwell Trail in sunny locations. See [our key](#) to distinguish from related species.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Cornaceae

[Cornus glabrata](#)

[BROWN DOGWOOD](#)



Brown Dogwood are found on the Legacy Trail. They Bloom in May. They are a shrub, so to see their size proceed to the next page





Brown Dogwood shrub on Legacy Trail at T-Ford

See our [Dog/Hop Key](#) to compare to Hop Trees

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Crassulaceae

[Dudleya cymosa subsp. cymose](#)

[Canyon Dudleya](#)



A very fine, photogenic plant. They are maybe 5 inches tall and live in cracks in the rock. Look for them in rocky areas across the Park. Blooming in May usually.

Family: Crassulaceae

[Sedella pumila](#)

[Sierra Sedella](#)



A tiny plant the lives on Lovejoy Basalt outcrops. When hundreds of them are massed they can be impressive despite their diminutive size.

[CalPhotos](#) [CalFlora](#)

They are colorful even with no flowers:





Family: Crassulaceae

[Sedum spathulifolium](#)

[BROADLEAF STONECROP](#)



About six inches tall, and found on rock on the Annie Bidwell Trail a little past Alligator Bluff, and the Legacy Trail.

The genus is sometimes called Hen-and-chicks because the mother plants grows offspring on rhizomes nestled around the big plant.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Cucurbitaceae

[Marah fabacea](#)

[CALIFORNIA MAN-ROOT](#)



This is a vine that climbs shrubs for support. They are widespread across Upper Park, and may be found blooming in Feb-Apr. See our [Marah Key](#)

See [Jepson Video](#) for charming story about *Marah fabacea*

Here are their fruit:



[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

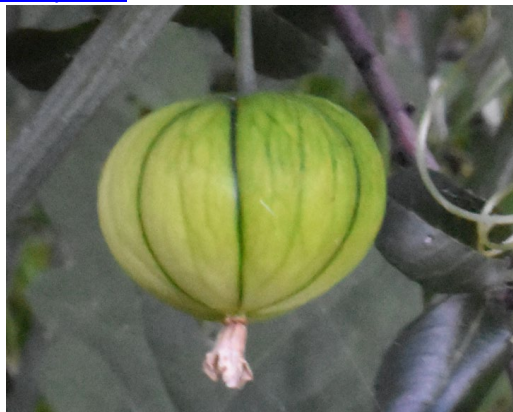
Family: Cucurbitaceae

[Marah watsonii](#)

[TAW MAN-ROOT](#)



A vine that climbs on shrubs for support. This species is not common along our trails, but we found a patch on the Annie Bidwell Trail up past Bloody Pin blooming in Mar-Apr. See [our key here](#). Here are their fruit at the end of April:



[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Ericaceae

[Arctostaphylos manzanita subsp. manzanita](#)

[Big Manzanita](#)



Our common manzanita in Upper Park. It can be quite large, 10 ft is not unusual. It can be our earliest bloomer, as early as Christmas, and continues in Jan-Feb.





Comes in pink and white:



Has fruit shaped like little apples (*manzana* in *Español*):



See our [Manzanita Key](#) to compare to the other species

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Ericaceae

[Arctostaphylos viscida subsp. viscida](#)

[Sticky White-leaf Manzanita](#)



We have found this along our Upper Park trails only at the edges of the Day Camp parking lot. There they are about 6 ft tall, and blooming in February.

See our [Manzanita Key](#) to compare to the other species.

Family: Fabaceae

[Acmispon americanus var. americanus](#)

[American Trefoil](#)



A pretty June late-bloomer. Look for them in the grass in open oak woodland on Annie Bidwell Trail in vicinity of Iron Canyon (the ruler is in cm).

See [White/Pink Acmispon Key](#)



Family: Fabaceae

[Acmispon brachycarpus](#)

[Foothill Deervetch](#)



Foothill Deervetch is common in many habitats. It is usually low to the ground, but may have many plants in patches, and with its bright yellow flowers one's attention is drawn.

This species is quite similar to another yellow Acmispon found in Upper Park. If it is difficult to make a clear identification using the key your specimen may be a [hybrid intermediate](#).

See [Yellow Lotus/Yellow Acmispon Key](#)

Family: Fabaceae

[Acmispon parviflorus](#)

[Miniature Lotus](#)



Miniature Lotus is often low to the ground (this photo is of one that is bigger than usual and is being held up for its photoshoot). The corolla is quite small, around 5 mm. They are common in disturbed areas.

See [White/Pink Acmispon Key](#)

Family: Fabaceae

[Acmispon wrangelianus](#)

[Wrangel's Lotus](#)



The ruler is in cm (centimeters) so the corolla is about 5 mm wide. Wrangel's Lotus grows prostrate on the ground, and its bright yellow flowers bring it to your attention. We've found it blooming in March in open sunny areas.

This species is quite similar to another yellow Acmispon found in Upper Park. If it is difficult to make a clear identification using the key your specimen may be a [hybrid intermediate](#).

See [Yellow Lotus/Yellow Acmispon Key](#)

Family: Fabaceae

[Cercis occidentalis](#)

[WESTERN REDBUD](#)



California's most beloved native shrub\*.

The Western Redbud bloom late February through early April. They are widespread in Upper Park. *continues*



They are a favorite in native landscaping and are interesting in all seasons. Attractive cordate (heart-shaped) leaves green through the summer, then fairly good fall color in November.



The seed pods linger through the Winter and into Spring.

UC Berkeley's Jepson Herbarium has a nice video [Cercis occidentalis \(Western redbud\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

\*or maybe Toyon, or Mock-orange. At least one vote for Styrax

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Fabaceae

[Glycyrrhiza lepidota](#)

[WILD LICORICE](#)



We have only found Wild Licorice in the sandy soil creekside at T-Ford. They are a couple feet tall and bloom in June. Look for them while changing into your watershoes for the exciting wade across Big Chico Creek. There are six other species that are found trailside (Annie Bidwell, Golf Course Cutoff, Legacy, and Yahi) only at T-Ford: *Apocynum cannabinum* – Hemp Dogbane, *Darmera peltata* – Umbrella Plant, and *Epipactis gigantea* – Stream Orchid. Also Bouncing Bet Soapwort, White Sweetclover and Pink

California Honeysuckle

[CalPhotos](#)

There is a good population of turtles in that part of the creek as well, here's one walking down the Yahi Trail just before T-Ford:



Family: Fabaceae

[Lathyrus latifolius](#)

[PERENNIAL SWEET PEA](#)



A common garden sweet pea has naturalized in Upper Park to one location along the golf course cutoff trail. They have been there for at least a couple decades.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Fabaceae  
[Lathyrus sphaericus](#)  
[Round-seeded Vetchling](#)



One of multiple peas called a “grass pea”.  
We’ve found it once in mid-May hidden in the grasses along  
the Annie Bidwell Trail near Iron Canyon.

[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)

Family: Fabaceae  
[Lathyrus sulphureus](#)  
[Snub Pea](#)



Snub Pea flowers are a bronze-orange when in full bloom, making them deceptively look dried or wilted. May be found on the forest floor blooming in April, the Legacy Trail is a good place to look for them.



Family: Fabaceae

[Lotus corniculatus](#)

[BIRD'S-FOOT TREFOIL](#)



Bird's-foot Trefoil lives in pretty places creekside I-Ford to T-Ford. It is about a foot tall and blooms in June-July

Compare to similar species using [our key](#).

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Fabaceae

[Lupinus affinis](#)

[FLESHY LUPINE](#)



We found this blooming in Mar between Salmon Hole and Iron Canyon fish ladder access (Parking Area O). It is about a foot high. [Purple Lupine Key](#). We think it is uncommon in Upper Park but unsure. [CalPhotos](#) [CalFlora](#)



Family: Fabaceae

[Lupinus albifrons var. albifrons](#)

[SILVER BUSH LUPINE](#)



Our shrubby Lupine is a real treat for hikers who make it to the upper reaches of the Park, particularly good specimens on the Yahi Trail past the R-trail junction. It is our only lupine with a woody stem, which shows that it is a perennial and individual shrubs will likely be there for decades to come for you to renew your acquaintance.

[Purple Lupine Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Fabaceae

[Lupinus bicolor](#)

[MINIATURE LUPINE](#)




Our little purple annual lupine is very common and lives interspersed with other small purple lupines, refer to [our key](#) to tell them apart. April is the big month for blooming lupine.

Family: Fabaceae

[Lupinus microcarpus var. densiflorus](#)

[SECOND CHICK LUPINE](#)



A fairly big (1-2 ft tall) lupine. It is usually white to light yellow, it is reported to be all purple sometimes but we have not observed any that color in Upper Park. Its flowers are arranged in a series of symmetric whorls. 



Not common, but there is a reliable patch on the Yahi Trail at I-Ford which blooms in Apr-May.

They are an annual, so you can watch their sprouts progress through the life cycle in a single year:







Family: Fabaceae

[Lupinus nanus](#)

[SKY LUPINE](#)



Sky Lupine is the larger of the small purple lupines, but sometimes is as small as the smallest (4 in), the [Purple Lupine Key](#) shows how to identify the species. Usually about a foot tall, and bloom the most in April. Common in Upper Park.

Family: Fabaceae

[Lupinus pachylobus](#)

[BIG POD LUPINE](#)



It is so similar to the other small purple lupines when in full bloom but before pods form that we are unsure how uncommon it is. This specimen is mostly done blooming in mid Apr along the Annie Bidwell Trail across from Bear Hole.

CalPhotos has only limited photos of this species, like us.

See our [Purple Lupine Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Fabaceae

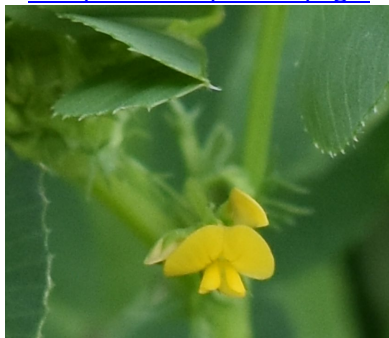
[Medicago polymorpha](#)

[CALIFORNIA BURCLOVER](#)



A ground-hugging weed, common in Chico lawns. Blooming in Mar-Apr in a variety of locations in Upper Park

[Compare to Hopclover page.](#)



[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Fabaceae

[Melilotus albus](#)

[WHITE SWEETCLOVER](#)



About two feet tall. Along our trails we found it only at T-Ford (and down the side trail to the creek at R). Blooming in July. Lives widely across most of California.

Family: Fabaceae

[Melilotus indicus](#)

[SOURCLOVER](#)



We found it only at Diversion Dam Spring blooming in May, but it lives widely across most of California. About two feet tall.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Fabaceae

[Spartium junceum](#)

[SPANISH BROOM](#)



A dramatic shrub about 6 ft tall. Blooms Apr-June. Lives along the creek the length of Upper Park, seeds are spread by the water. Efforts have be made by local native plant people to suppress the population, but the effort has been for naught. This immigrant species from the Mediterranean region has naturalized and is here to stay. They certainly brighten up the creekside scenery





Family: Fabaceae  
[Trifolium ciliolatum](#)  
[FOOTHILL CLOVER](#)



On both the Annie Bidwell and Yahi Trail sides of Iron Canyon in the grasslands. Blooming mostly in April.

The flowers in the flowerhead droop dramatically as this species ages





See [Purple Trifolium Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Fabaceae

[Trifolium depauperatum](#)

[Sack Clover](#)



About 6 in tall. Found along Annie Bidwell and Yahí Trails in the Iron Canyon area. Blooms mainly in April.

See [Purple Trifolium Key](#)

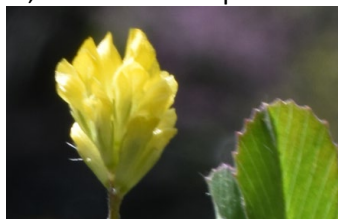
[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Fabaceae  
[Trifolium dubium](#)  
[LITTLE HOP CLOVER](#)



This little clover is a few inches tall (in the photo the specimen is being held up at camera height). They are inconspicuously nestled in grasslands in various locations. It is known to bloom in April. [Compare to Medicago](#) (hint no burs, and corolla shape different)



[CalPhotos](#)

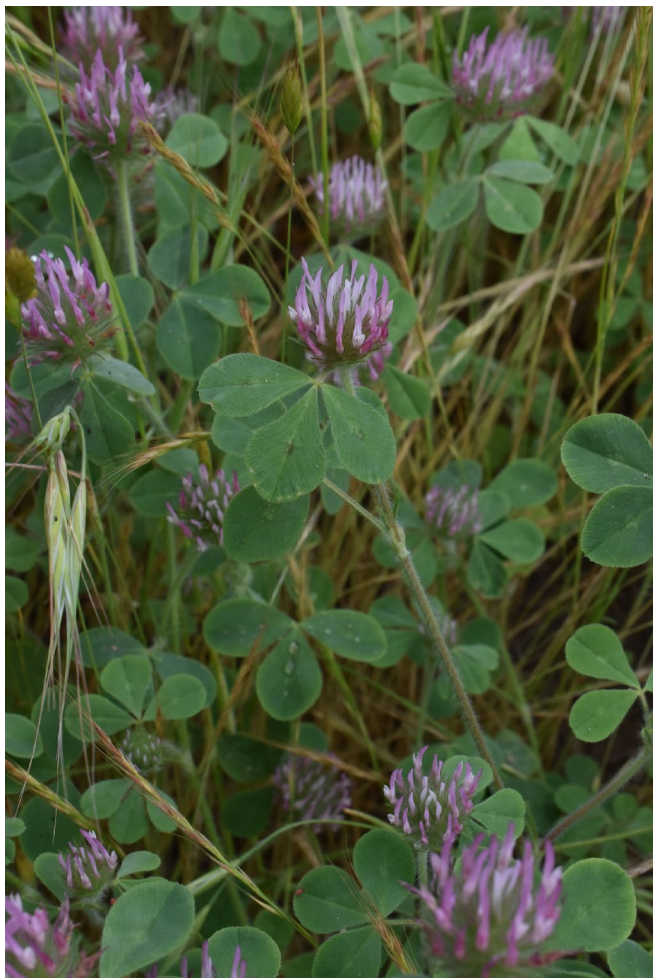
[CalFlora](#)



Family: Fabaceae

[Trifolium hirtum](#)

[ROSE CLOVER](#)



Common in grassy areas in Upper Park. About 6 in tall, and blooms in Apr-May.

See [Purple Trifolium Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Fabaceae

[Trifolium incarnatum](#)

[CRIMSON CLOVER](#)



This dramatic large bright clover was seeded in graded areas along Upper Park Road as part of the road reconstruction project in 2022. It was blooming in late April and May 2023. It is an annual, and will disappear unless it successfully reseeds itself.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Fabaceae

[Trifolium repens](#)

[WHITE CLOVER](#)



This is the common white clover of lawns, and is planted worldwide as a forage crop. We found it on the Golf Course Cutoff Trail (in the golf course!) blooming in May.



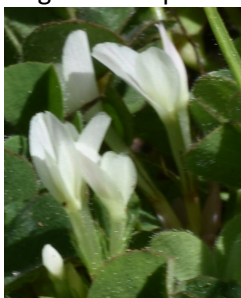
Family: Fabaceae

[Trifolium subterraneum](#)

[SUBTERRANEAN CLOVER](#)



A very low clover, maybe 1 in tall. Tends to be matted.  
Found blooming in Mar-Apr in various places



[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Fabaceae

[Trifolium variegatum](#)

[White-tipped Clover](#)



Common in vernal wet areas on the Yahí Trail from Diversion Dam to the designated Turkey Vulture Soaring Area. They have a long blooming season Feb-May.

See [Purple Trifolium Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Fabaceae  
[Trifolium willdenovii](#)  
[TOMCAT CLOVER](#)



About a foot tall. We find them along the Yahi Trail in Iron Canyon area if open grasslands, and also on Annie Bidwell Trail at Alligator Bluff. Blooming late Feb-Apr.

See [Purple Trifolium Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#) [CalFlora](#)

More photos next page





Family: Fabaceae

[Vicia americana subsp. americana](#)

[AMERICAN VETCH](#)



May be a few inches tall, or may be almost vine-like on other vegetation. Not common, we have found it on the upper portions of the Yahi and Legacy Trail blooming in May.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

See [Vicia Key](#) to confirm ID

Another photo next page







Family: Fabaceae

[Vicia sativa](#)

[Spring Vetch](#)



Widespread in Upper Park, generally in among the grasses.

May be a foot tall, found blooming Feb-Apr

They have tendrils to gain support from other plants, see  
next page →

See [Vicia Key](#) to confirm ID



Family: Fabaceae

[Vicia villosa](#)

[HAIRY VETCH, WINTER VETCH](#)



Often planted in agriculture as a cover crop. Vine-like, may climb to three feet, commonly in tangles on ground.

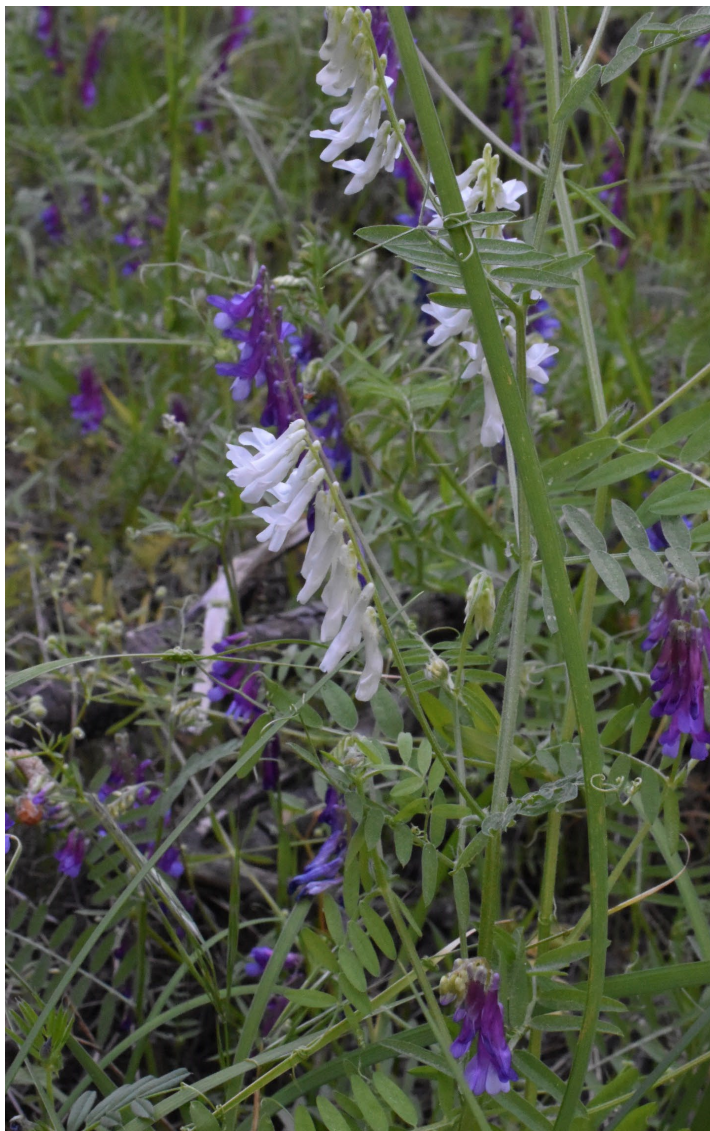
Widespread, look for it blooming Feb-Apr

See [Vicia Key](#) to confirm ID

Rarely flowers are white, see next page





[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)

Family: Gentianaceae

[Centaurium tenuiflorum](#)

[SLENDER CENTAURY](#)



A very pretty May-July bloomer found in grasslands on both sides of Iron Canyon.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Geraniaceae

[Erodium botrys](#)

[Broadleaf Filaree](#)



Common in Upper Park, and in urban areas too.

Blooming Feb-Apr

See our [Filaree Key](#) to compare.



Family: Geraniaceae

[Erodium brachycarpum](#)

[Foothill Filaree](#)



Found occasionally in the grasslands on both the Annie Bidwell and Yahi Trail sides of Iron Canyon.

Blooming in Feb-Mar

See our [Filaree Key](#) to compare.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Geraniaceae

[Erodium cicutarium](#)

[REDSTEM FILAREE](#)



Common across California. This species came Mexico with the Spaniards. They were so well suited that they spread to California before the missions were built, as evidenced by their seeds being found in the missions' original adobe bricks. They live many areas in Upper Park and all over Chico.

Blooming Feb-Apr.

See our [Filaree Key](#) to compare.

Family: Geraniaceae

[Erodium moschatum](#)

[GREENSTEM FILAREE](#)



Found occasionally in Upper Park. May be 6 in tall, blooming in March. We have found it near Diversion Dam, Turkey Vulture Soaring Area, and west end of Legacy Trail.

See our [Filaree Key](#) to compare.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Geraniaceae

[Geranium carolinianum](#)

[Carolina Geranium](#)



We found this only rarely. On Yahi Trail between Alligator Hole and Bear Hole, blooming in April. Maybe a foot tall.

Compare to other Geraniums with [our key](#).

[CalPhotos](#).....[CalFlora](#)

Family: Geraniaceae

[Geranium dissectum](#)

[Cutleaf Geranium](#)



We have found this at a few spots spread along the Annie Bidwell and Legacy trail. Blooming in April,, and maybe a foot tall.

Compare to other Geraniums with [our key](#).

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

More photos next page







Family: Geraniaceae

[Geranium molle](#)

[Dove's-foot Geranium](#)



This adorable little Geranium common throughout Upper Park, particularly in partially shaded areas. Look for them blooming Feb-Apr.

Compare to other Geraniums with [our key](#).

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Hydrangeaceae

[Philadelphus lewisii](#)

[WILD MOCK ORANGE](#)



A large shrub which when blooming and overhanging the trail envelopes the hiker in a floral sensation. The best place is the Upper Yahí Trail just before Browns Hole in late May and early June.







Family: Hydrophyllaceae

[Nemophila heterophylla](#)

[Variable-leaved Nemophila](#)



Pretty and delicate, just a few inches tall. But well-suited to Upper Park and blooms in many areas of the Park Feb-Apr, that indicates it is a lot tougher than some people would think.



See our [Nemophila Key](#) to compare

[CalFlora](#)


[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Hydrophyllaceae

[Nemophila pedunculata](#)

[Littlefoot Nemophila](#)



Big blossoms compared to the size of the plant.  
We've found them in Jan-Apr in wetter areas of the Annie  
Bidwell and Legacy Trails 



Sometimes the corolla lobes have these purple spots.

See our [Nemophila Key](#) to distinguish species.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Hydrophyllaceae

[Phacelia cicutaria](#)

[Caterpillar Phacelia](#)



About a foot tall. Not common, there is a big patch under the California Bay shrub at the Iron Canyon viewpoint (Parking Area O side trail at Yahi Trail). Blooms in Mar-Apr.

See our [Phacelia Key](#), the Phacelias are hard to tell apart.

Family: Hydrophyllaceae

[Phacelia egena](#)

[Rock Phacelia](#)



Found in the rock outcrops along Annie Bidwell and Yahi Trails on either side of Iron Canyon, especially east of Salmon Hole on Yahi Trail. Blooming Feb-May.

This is a big, robust Phacelia.



See our [Phacelia Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Hydrophyllaceae

[Phacelia heterophylla var. virgata](#)

[Variable-leaved Phacelia](#)



Not common. We find it just before the Buckbrush interpretive sign on the upper Yahí Trail (past swimming hole R). About 2 ft tall, blooming in May.

See our [Phacelia Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Hydrophyllaceae

[Phacelia imbricata](#)

[Imbricate Phacelia](#)



Blooms in late Mar-Apr. About 2 ft tall. We found them in the rock outcrops along the Yahi Trail within a 1/3 of a mile of Salmon Hole blooming in late Mar-April. They are similar to and live in proximity to Rock Phacelia; they are known to

intergrade with Rock Phacelia meaning there is not a clear separation between the species in the genetic analyses. But applying the Jepson eFlora key to our populations there are two species, but it understandable if the hiker is skeptical.



See our [Phacelia Key](#)

Family: Hypericaceae

[Hypericum perforatum subsp. perforatum](#)

[KLAMATHWEED](#)



Found occasionally at widely scattered spots along the trails.  
Blooming in May-June about 2 ft tall.

It is a rather showy weed, toxic to livestock and has been researched for human use, but can be deadly. This is a subspecies of the [H. perforatum -- St John's Wort](#).



Family: Iridaceae

[Iris macrosiphon](#)

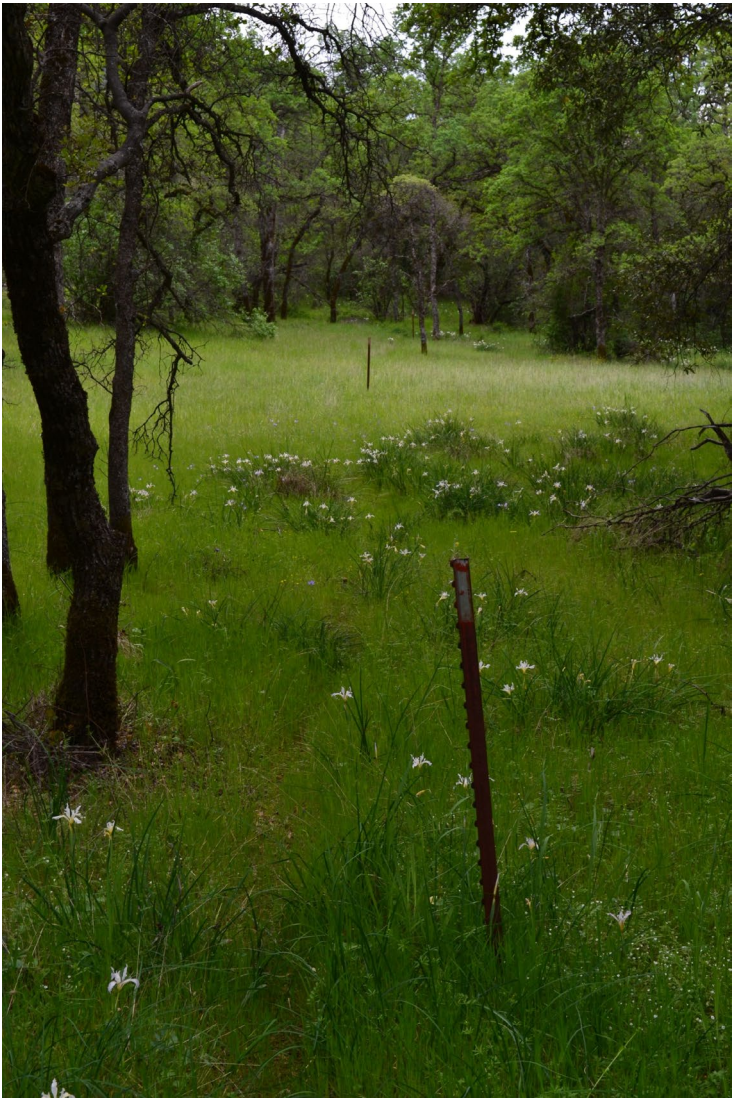
[Ground Iris](#)



Around a foot tall, blooms Feb-Apr. Common along the Annie Bidwell and Legacy Trails.







Tends to grow in large clumps.





Family: Lamiaceae  
[Lamium amplexicaule](#)  
[HENBIT](#)



Charming little Henbit, sometimes called *giraffe-heads* to be cute. A February bloomer. Not common, but found in scattered locales across the Park, especially roadcut of Upper Park Road just before Yahi trailhead.

Family: Lamiaceae

[Lepechinia calycina](#)

[Wood-balm Pitcher-sage](#)



Around 2 ft tall, blooming in May and June. Uncommon in Upper Park, look for them along the Yahí Trail between R and S (Browns Hole).

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Lamiaceae

[Marrubium vulgare](#)

Common Horehound



About 2 ft tall. A nasty, unpleasant weed. After the flowers dry they become burs which adhere to socks and fleece tenaciously. Blooming in May adjacent to the Golf Course.

Family: Lamiaceae

[Monardella sheltonii](#)

[Shelton's Coyote-mint](#)



A gorgeous Coyote-mint that sparkles in the drying grasses in June. Look for them along the Legacy Trail especially in the area of the (dry) Lovejoy Falls. Take a whiff of its rubbed leaves! About a foot tall.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Lamiaceae

[Salvia rosmarinus](#)

[Rosemary](#)



A dense shrub about 2 ft tall. It has been planted along the edge of the beginning of the Annie Bidwell Trail at Chico Canyon Trailhead. It is used in cooking, eg spaghetti sauce. Very aromatic.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)\*

\*CalFlora uses the old Latin name

Family: Lamiaceae  
[Scutellaria californica](#)  
[California Skullcap](#)



Found on upper Yahi Trail between Parking Are Q and T-Ford. About a foot tall and blooms in May-June. The magnificent Humboldt Lily are in the same area and bloom the first two weeks of June, so they may be used as



additional excuses to make an early morning hike to T-Ford before the day warms up.

[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)

Family: Lamiaceae  
[Scutellaria tuberosa](#)  
[Danny's Skullcap](#)



Found only once near Lovejoy Falls on the Legacy Trail in mid April. Just a few inches tall. A treat if you can find them.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Lamiaceae

[Stachys rigida](#)

[Rigid Hedge-nettle](#)



About a foot tall. We found this just one time blooming in May. But not sure where, think it might have be on the upper Yahi Trail where the side trail goes down to R swimming hole. See our [Stachys Key](#) to confirm ID

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Lamiaceae

[Stachys stricta](#)

[Sonoma Hedge-nettle](#)



We found this just one time, on the Yahi Trail near Parking Area M. They are about a foot tall. The date of the photo was lost, but Jepson eFlora says they are known to bloom

Jun-Oct, so maybe it was June.

See our [Stachys Key](#) to confirm ID



Family: Lauraceae

[Umbellularia californica](#)

[California Bay](#)



These are large trees. The leaves are very aromatic. Sometimes used in cooking, but for some people the oils are toxic and the aroma overwhelming. They are common over much of Upper Park. Bloom in Jan-Feb





See [video](#) from UC Berkeley's Jepson Herbarium.

Family: Liliaceae

[Calochortus luteus](#)

[Golden Nuggets Mariposa Lily](#)



A California classic beauty. Found in open grassy areas on either side of Iron Canyon, as well at the Annie Bidwell Trail above the golf course just before Alligator Bluff.

About a foot tall, and blooming in May.

Hybridizes with the white *C. superbus*.

See next page for some variations





[CalFlora](#)[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Liliaceae

[Calochortus monophyllus](#)

[YELLOW STAR-TULIP](#)



Quite a popular flower. They are about 6 in tall, and are mostly likely found in partly sunny woodlands, like along the Legacy Trail. Blooms late Feb-Apr

Family: Liliaceae

[Calochortus superbus](#)

[Superb Mariposa Lily](#)



The intricate detailing on the white background vary from flower to flower. They hybridize with the yellow *C. luteus*, so intermediate colors may be found. About a foot tall, found blooming in May on the upper Annie Bidwell and Yahi Trails in open grasslands

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Liliaceae

[Erythronium multiscapideum](#)

[Sierra Foothills Fawn Lily](#)



Our most exquisite flower!

Almost never found on the Yahí Trail. They are abundant on the Annie Bidwell Trail between Alligator Bluff and I-Ford.

And some on the Legacy Trail.



They bloom in Feb-Mar, and are about 4 in tall.





Family: Liliaceae

[Fritillaria affinis](#)

[CHECKER LILY](#)



Common in wooded areas of Upper Park blooming in Feb-Mar, especially on the Legacy Trail. About 2 ft tall.





Fruit in late April





Checker Lily plant #3  
flowering this year  
(no bulb leaf)

Checker Lily plant #2  
with a single bulb leaf  
(no flowering this year)

Note: bulb leaf  
also called  
resting leaf

Checker Lily plant #1  
with a single bulb leaf  
(no flowering this year)

They have rest years when they grow a single large bulb leaf and that is all. And the next year send up a stalk with flowers.

Here is a [Jepson Video for Fritillaria affinis](#)



Family: Liliaceae

[Fritillaria recurva](#)

[SCARLET FRITILLARY](#)



Vivid scarlet would be hard to miss, except that we have only found it one place along our Upper Park trails and it was about 20 ft upslope from the trail. Look for it blooming in late Feb-early Mar along Annie Bidwell Trail between the high tension power lines and I-Ford. About 2 ft tall.



Family: Liliaceae

[Lilium humboldtii subsp. humboldtii](#)

[HUMBOLDT LILY](#)



The magnificent Humboldt Lily blooms during the first two weeks of June in the most remote part of Upper Park. They can be a full six feet tall. They live trailside in the vicinity of Browns Hole on the Yahí and Legacy Trails.



It is a long hike in, but they are a great find. Get an early start as afternoons in June can be hot.

Family: Lythraceae

[Lythrum hyssopifolia](#)

[Hyssop Loosestrife](#)



A common weed, but we've only found it one day in Upper Park; they were just above Salmon Hole on both the Yahí and Anni Bidwell sides. Blooming end of May. This specimen is erect, but they are often decumbent.

Compare to [Spike-primrose](#)



Family: Malvaceae

[Malva nicaeensis](#)

[BULL MALLOW](#)



A tough weed found only along the Golf Course Cutoff next to the Hole #13 tee box. About 4 in tall and blooms late Apr-early May.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Malvaceae

[Sidalcea calycosa subsp. calycosa](#)

[VERNAL POOL CHECKERBLOOM, HOGWALLOW  
CHECKERBLOOM](#)



A foot or two tall. Bloom in May. We've found them along the Yahí Trail between Salmon Hole and Parking Area Q.

See our [Sidalcea Key](#) for related species

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Malvaceae

[Sidalcea hartwegii](#)

[HARTWEG'S CHECKERBLOOM](#)



About a foot tall. We have found it blooming in May along the Yahí Trail a little east of Salmon Hole.

See our [Sidalcea Key](#) for related species

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Malvaceae

[Sidalcea robusta](#)

[BUTTE COUNTY CHECKERBLOOM](#)



A large perennial *Sidalcea*, often around 4 ft tall. Blooms late Apr-May. Occurs on much of the Annie Bidwell and Legacy Trails, and the Yahi Trail past Salmon Hole. This species range is Chico and surrounding area.

See our [Sidalcea Key](#) for related species

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

More photos





One more photo







Family: Melanthiaceae

[Toxicoscordion venenosum var. venenosum](#)

[Common Death Camas](#)



Highly toxic to livestock and humans. About a foot or two tall. Found blooming late Apr-early May along Yahi Trail between R swimming hole and Browns Hole.

See additional photo next page



[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)

Family: Montiaceae

[Calandrinia menziesii](#)

[RED MAIDS](#)



Red Maids is iridescently easy to identify!

We've found them on the Annie Bidwell Trail near Alligator Blue and on Yahi Trail near the Iron Canyon overlook (at the Parking Area O side trail). End blooming in Feb-early March.

Here's a [Jepson Video for Calandrinia menziesii](#).

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Montiaceae

[Claytonia parviflora subsp. parviflora](#)

[Small-flowered Springbeauty](#)



About 6 in tall. Abundant in damp areas across Upper Park.  
Blooming Feb-Apr. Highly variable in size, and hybridizes  
with other Claytonia.

See our [Claytonia Key](#)

Family: Montiaceae

[Claytonia perfoliata subsp. perfoliata](#)

[Rooreh](#)



About 6 in tall, blooms Jan-Mar. Abundant across Upper Park. Highly variable in size, and hybridizes with other Claytonia. Formerly known as Miner's-lettuce; eaten as a [salad plant](#). See our [Claytonia Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Myrsinaceae

[Lysimachia arvensis](#)

[SCARLET PIMPERNEL](#)



Just a few inches tall, and quite distinctive, not likely to be confused with any other species. An attractive weed in urban areas, but not found much along Upper Park trails. We found a few at Bear Hole blooming in April.



Family: *Namaceae*

[\*Eriodictyon californicum\*](#)

[CALIFORNIA YERBA SANTA](#)



Two to four feet tall, found blooming in Apr-May. Common in Northern California in hot, brushy areas. Look along the Annie Bidwell and Yahai Trails in the vicinity of Alligator Hole/Bluff.



Family: Oleaceae

[Fraxinus latifolia](#)

[OREGON ASH](#)



An attractive mid-sized tree. Found in the outer riparian zone along Big Chico Creek. Blooms in March





Oregon Ash in fruit

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Note: we also have [Fraxinus dipetala](#) – California Ash, but have not observed it blooming, they are more of a large shrub with multiple stems.

Family: Oleaceae

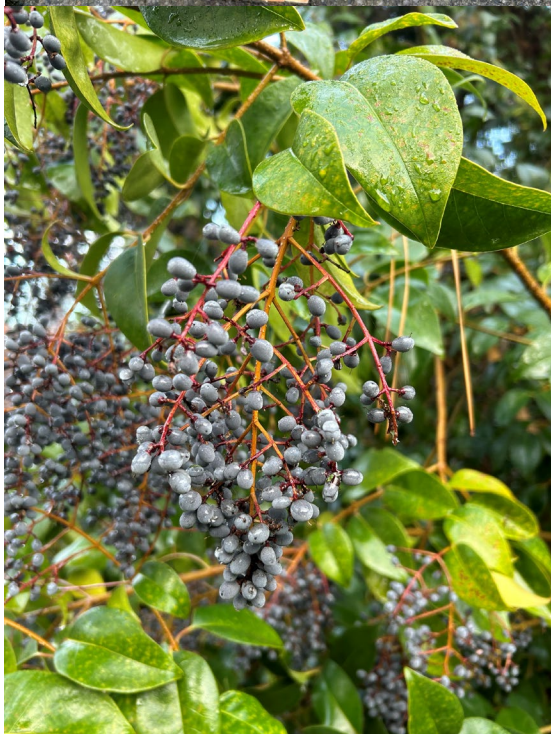
[Ligustrum lucidum](#)

[CHINESE PRIVET](#)



A large shrub or tree. Planted horticulturally, but birds eat the small black fruit and their droppings spread them into lawns, gardens, wildlands. They immediately send down a deep tap root which is difficult to remove. If the seedlings are cut to the ground they regrow. They are between Chico Canyon trailhead and Fern Wall, blooming in July.





Fruit on *Ligustrum lucidum* in Feb.



Family: Onagraceae

[Clarkia arcuata](#)

[Glandular Clarkia](#)



The genus Clarkia is [sometimes called](#) *fairy-fan* or *farewell-to-spring* as they bloom in late April as the grasses start to dry. These are about a foot tall, and are found along the Yahai Trail between Salmon Hole and Iron Canyon overlook (at Parking Area O side trail)

Family: Onagraceae

[Clarkia purpurea subsp. quadrivulnera](#)

[FOUR-SPOT](#)



Blooming May-June in open areas along the Annie Bidwell and upper Yahai Trails. About a foot tall. Four petal each with a purple spot, sometimes more dramatic than these.

Family: Onagraceae

[Clarkia rhomboidea](#)

[Diamond-petalled Clarkia](#)



Not common (or blooms in the heat of late spring and we don't notice them). We found this specimen in early June on the Annie Bidwell Trail between Lovejoy Falls overlook and Ten-Mile road. About a foot tall. Compare to Clarkia unguiculata (next page) which has red anthers while this does not.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Onagraceae

[Clarkia unguiculata](#)

[Elegant Clarkia](#)



Compare to *Clarkia rhomboidea* (previous page), which does not have red anthers, while this species does. We found this elegant flower just once along our Upper Park trail, along the Legacy Trail just west of T-Ford. Blooming in mid-June, about a foot tall.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Onagraceae

[Epilobium densiflorum](#)

[Dense-flowered Spike-primrose](#)



These bloom in May and early June, and are about a foot tall. Look for them in grassy area in the vicinity of Iron Canyon on both the Annie Bidwell and Yahi Trails.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Compare to the [other spike-primrose](#)

Another photo





Family: Onagraceae

[Epilobium torreyi](#)

[Torrey's Spike-primrose](#)



This is about a foot tall, but Epilobiums vary in size a lot due to local conditions and age of the plant. We found this species once, it was blooming at the end of May beside the Annie Bidwell Trail across from Bear Hole.





Compare to [Hyssop Loosestrife](#)

Also compare to the [other spike-primrose](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Orchidaceae

[Epipactis gigantea](#)

[STREAM ORCHID](#)



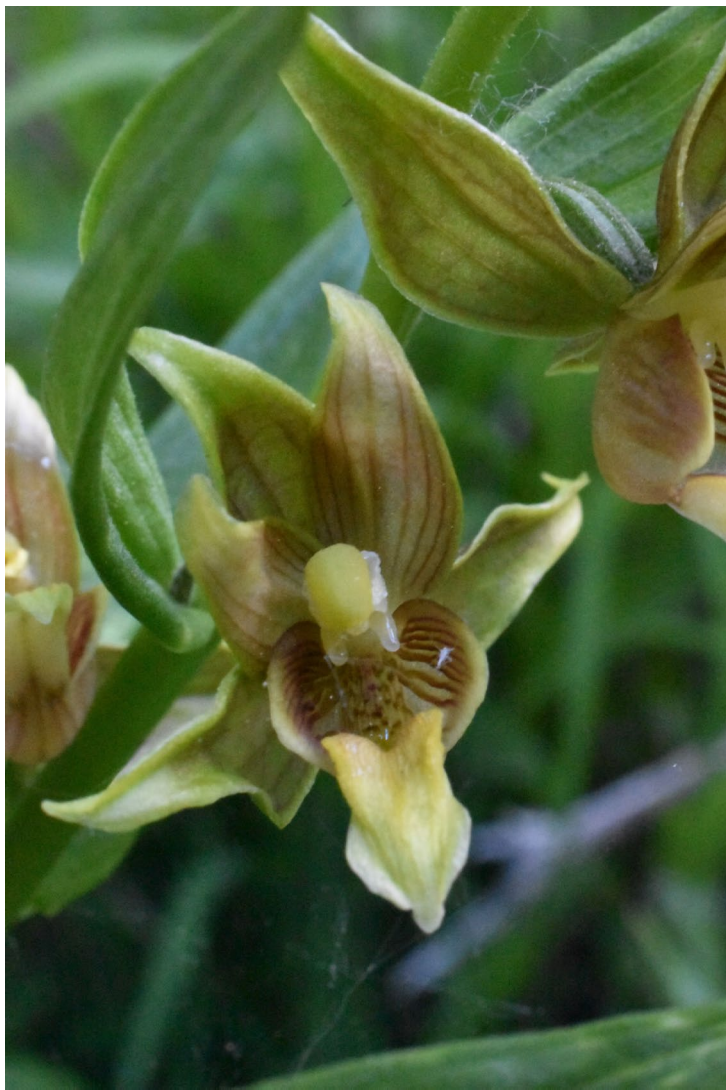
Our gorgeous orchid. It is found trailside only at T-Ford. It blooms in June (same time as the Humboldt Lilies and Wild Mock Orange).





Here it is at the end of April





Family: Orobanchaceae

[Castilleja affinis subsp. affinis](#)

[Lay-and-Collie's Paintbrush](#)



A big showy paintbrush. They are a foot or two tall, and found blooming in Apr-May. We found one once near Day Camp on the Yahí Trail, but more reliably on Fern Cliff near the beginning of the Annie Bidwell Trail



Family: Orobanchaceae

[Castilleja attenuata](#)

[VALLEY TASSELS](#)



About 6 in tall. We've found Valley Tassels in sunny areas along the Yahi Trail from the trailhead up to Turkey Vulture soaring area (upper Iron Canyon), blooming in Apr-May. It almost certainly is on the Annie Bidwell Trail side as well.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Orobanchaceae

[Castilleja exserta](#)

[PURPLE OWL'S-CLOVER](#)



A popular favorite, these owl's-clover stand out with their vivid color in flowery grasslands. Look for them blooming Mar-May at Iron Canyon overlook (on the Yahi Trail at the Parking Area O side trail). They are about 6 in tall.





Late season

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Orobanchaceae

[Castilleja lacera](#)

[Cutleaf Owl's-clover](#)



About 6 in tall, bloom in late Apr-early May. We have found the only at Alligator Bluff on the Annie Bidwell Trail. But they may not bloom every year, in 2023 we looked for them at the beginning of May and none were to be found.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Orobanchaceae

[Triphysaria eriantha](#)

[BUTTER-AND-EGGS, JOHNNY-TUCK](#)



A common plant in Chico in vacant lots and open spaces. About 4 in tall, bloom Feb Apr. Look for them in open, thin-

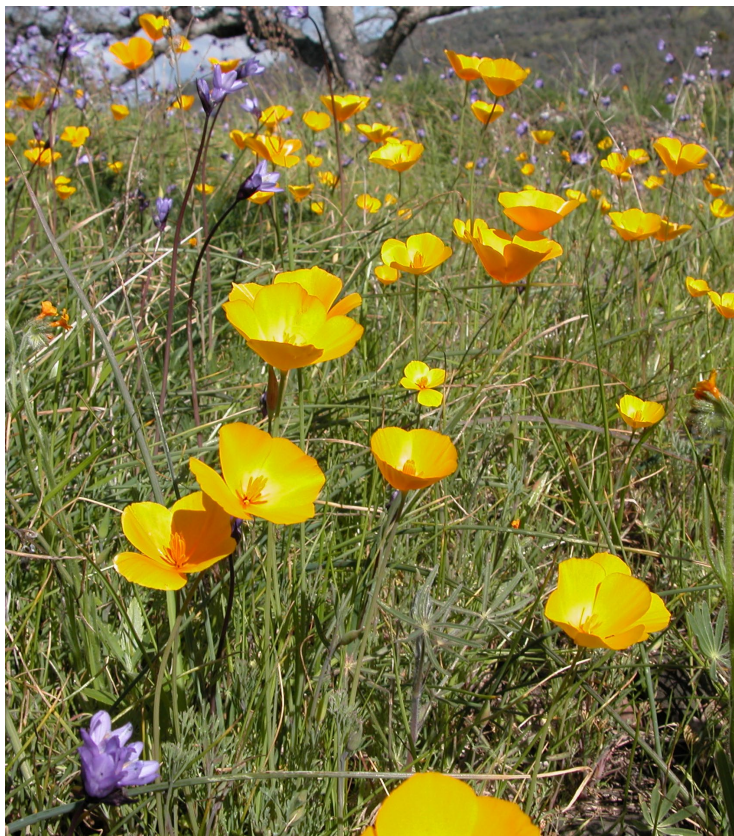
soiled grasslands on both the Yahí Trail and Annie Bidwell Trail in vicinity of Iron Canyon.



Family: Papaveraceae

[Eschscholzia caespitosa](#)

[FOOTHILL POPPY](#)



This is our poppy that grows in masses in sunny grasslands across Upper Park, and provides that crucial component to a classic California spring landscape. It is about a foot tall, and blooms Feb-Apr.

See our [Poppy Key](#) to correctly identify the species.  
Note: the little poppy in the center of the above photo is Frying Pans, the others are Foothill Poppy, the purple are Blue Dicks.



Family: Papaveraceae

[Eschscholzia californica](#)

[CALIFORNIA POPPY](#)



The State Flower of California since [March 2, 1903](#).

Not common in Upper Park, look for them on the Annie Bidwell Trail near the junction with the J-Ford trail. Usually blooming in Apr-May, although there are occasional blossoms many months of the year.

See our [Poppy Key](#) to correctly identify the species.



Family: Papaveraceae

[Eschscholzia lobbii](#)

[FRYING PANS](#)



Our charming little poppy. About 6 in tall, blooms Feb-Mar. The best place to find them is at the Iron Canyon overlook (Yahi Trail at Parking Area O side trail), although we found some near Bear Hole one time. They were featured on the cover of our earlier flower guide.





These are Foothill Poppies and Frying Pans. They are quite different in appearance here, but if it has been dry the Foothill Poppies can be the same size as the Frying Pans, and Frying Pans can be more yellow-orange like the Foothill Poppies....you need our [Poppy Key](#).

[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)

Family: Phrymaceae

[Diplacus douglasii](#)

[PURPLE MOUSE EARS](#)



Adorable Purple Mouse-ears is about 3 in tall and blooms in Feb. We have found it only in the vicinity of the Iron Canyon overlook (spur trail to Parking Area O).

Family: Phrymaceae

[Erythranthe arvensis](#)

VILLOUS-BRACTED MONKEYFLOWER



These are about a foot tall. We found them blooming in April along the Annie Bidwell Trail to the east of Bloody Pin. They vary a great deal, and overlap and intergrade with *E. microphylla*.

See our [Erythranthe Key](#).

Another photo next page





[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)

Family: Phrymaceae

[Erythranthe glaucescens](#)

[SHIELD-BRACTED MONKEYFLOWER](#)



This species is clearly defined and is our common yellow monkeyflower in Upper Park. It is widespread, and may be found in wet areas blooming Apr-May

See our [Erythranthe Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Phrymaceae

[Erythranthe microphylla](#)

[Small-leaved Monkeyflower](#)



These are about a foot tall. We found them blooming in Feb-Apr in a variety of wet places along our trails. They vary a great deal, and overlap and intergrade with *E. arvenii*.



See our [Erythranthe Key](#).



[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Phytolaccaceae

[Phytolacca americana var. americana](#)

[POKEWEED](#)



We missed the blooming period in fall, but here it is in Feb.

Only found it along Annie Bidwell Trail between Chico Canyon trailhead and Fern Wall. It is about 6 ft tall. Next page has a closeup of the inflorescence pattern, and the links

have images of it in flower



[CalFlora](#)[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Plantaginaceae

[Collinsia heterophylla var. heterophylla](#)

[CHINESE-HOUSES](#)



We've found them in Apr-May along the Annie Bidwell Trail on Fern Cliff and again a little before I-Ford. About a foot tall. They are whiter sometimes so verify with our

[Chinese-houses Key.](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Plantaginaceae

[Collinsia sparsiflora var. collina](#)

[Few-flowered Collinsia](#)



A pretty little Collinsia. About 5.5 cm tall  
Look for them blooming Feb-Apr along the Legacy, and  
upper Annie Bidwell and upper Yahi Trails





They come in white too:



[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Plantaginaceae

[Collinsia tinctoria](#)

[Sticky Chinese-houses](#)



About a foot tall. Look for them along the Yahi Trail Salmon Hole to T-Ford, also along the Legacy Trail. We enjoyed the exquisite detailing of their blossoms in May-June.

Compare to the other Chinese-houses species with our [Key](#).





see the glandular hairs on the stem?

[CalPhotos](#)

[Cal Flora](#)

Family: Plantaginaceae

[Keckiella breviflora var. glabrisepala](#)

[Gaping Keckiella](#)



This Keckiella is an attractive shrub 2-3 ft tall. They are fairly common along the Yahai and Annie Bidwell Trails on both sides of Iron Canyon. Look for them blooming in May and into June.



Family: Plantaginaceae

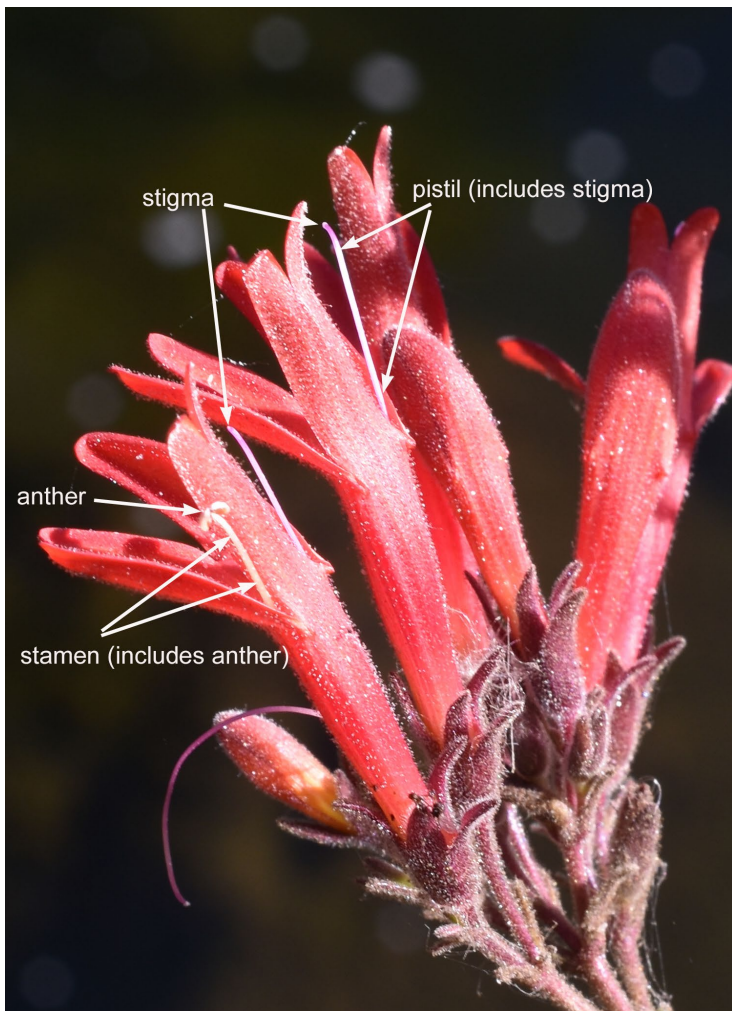
[Keckiella corymbosa](#)

[Red Keckiella](#)



Our beautiful red keckiella. Found along CHA recommended trails only on the rock wall at Fern Cliff near beginning of Annie Bidwell Trail. They hang over the creek. Bloom in July.

A similar species, California Fuchsia, has been reported nearby, although we have not observed it. They are not in the same genus or even in the same family. It is an example of two unrelated species evolving similar features, the term is [convergent evolution](#).



Keckiella corymbosa have a simple stigma (above photo). If you find a flower that looks similar but has a 4-lobed stigma then it is [Epilobium canum ssp latifolium](#) -- [California Fuchsia](#)

Family: Plantaginaceae

[Plantago erecta](#)

[California Dwarf Plantain](#)



This little Plantain gets lost in the grasses and may not be noticed. It is common in open, rocky grasslands where the other plants don't grow so tall as to shade it too much. It is about 3" tall and appears grass-like except when flowering (in March).

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Plantaginaceae

[Plantago lanceolata](#)

[ENGLISH PLANTAIN](#)



English Plantain is a common weed. It is often found where the soil has been disturbed, roadsides for example. It is a perennial with a thick taproot, which is why some digging is needed to remove them from gardens.



Family: Plantaginaceae

[Tonella tenella](#)

[Baby Innocence](#)



A delicate little flower. They like mossy rocks in the trees. There are some near the powerlines on the Annie Bidwell Trail, and also on the edges of the Legacy Trail. Blooms March-April

*continued*



[CalFlora](#)[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Polemoniaceae

[Gilia capitata](#)

[BLUEHEAD GILIA](#)



Widespread in Upper Park, often in grassy areas with trees.  
Look for them blooming in Apr-May. About 1 ½ ft tall.





See [our White Mid-sized Key](#)



Family: Polemoniaceae

[Gilia tricolor](#)

[BIRD'S-EYE GILIA](#)



Their blue anthers make these special. Found in open, sunny grassland blooming in Feb-Apr. About ½ ft tall. A good place to look for them is the Yahí Trail past Salmon Hole to Iron Canyon overlook.

Family: Polemoniaceae

[Leptosiphon bicolor](#)

[Bicolored Leptosiphon](#)



Often around 6 in tall. Look for them in Mar-Apr along the trails from Bear Hole upstream to T-Ford.

See our [Polemoniaceae Key](#) to distinguish from similar species.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Polemoniaceae

[Leptosiphon ciliatus](#)

[WHISKER BRUSH](#)



A few inches to a foot tall. Look for them Apr-May along the Annie Bidwell Trail past Bloody Pin Trail.

See our [Polemoniaceae Key](#) to distinguish from similar species.

Family: Polemoniaceae

[Microsteris gracilis](#)

[Slender Phlox](#)



Slender Phlox are common, hidden in among the grasses. They vary widely in size. Look for them Feb-Apr especially in grassy areas around Iron Canyon. Sometimes white. See our [Polemoniaceae Key](#) to distinguish from similar species.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Polemoniaceae

[Navarretia intertexta](#)

[Needleleaf Navarretia](#)



About 3 in tall. We found these once in late May along the Annie Bidwell Trail between Bear Hole and Bloody Pin Trail.

See our [Polemoniaceae Key](#) to distinguish from similar species.

Family: Polemoniaceae

[Navarretia tagetina](#)

[MARIGOLD NAVARRETIA](#)



We have found these along the Annie Bidwell Trail in sunny areas near the Golf Course, as well as up past Bear Hole.

They were blooming in May and are about 6 in tall.

See our [Polemoniaceae Key](#) to distinguish from similar species.

Family: Polemoniaceae

*Navarretia viscidula*

[Sticky Navarretia](#)



About 6 in tall

We have found them blooming in May near parking Area Q,  
and near the Bloody Pin/Annie Bidwell Trail junction.

See our [Polemoniaceae Key](#) to distinguish from similar  
species.

Family: Polygonaceae

[Chorizanthe membranacea](#)

[PINK SPINEFLOWER](#)



Here is a quirky, angular beauty. A little over a foot tall. We found them from Diversion Dam to Iron Canyon overlook (Parking Area O spur trail) in early May.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Polygalaceae

[Rhinotropis cornuta var. cornuta](#)

[SIERRA MILKWORT](#)



A distinctive plant, nothing else similar, makes it easy to identify. Look for the along both the Yahí and Legacy Trails as you approach T-Ford. We found them blooming in June  
More photos next page





Family: Polygonaceae

[Eriogonum nudum var. pubiflorum](#)

[FREMONT'S WILD BUCKWHEAT](#)



This species is a common sight across California, it has many varieties. We found it blooming June-Nov near Alligator Hole and near Salmon Hole on the Yahi Trail. About 3 ft tall.

More photos next page









Family: Primulaceae

[Primula clevelandii var. patula](#)

[Cleveland's Shooting Star](#)



Our prim local species of shooting star. Look for them blooming Feb-Mar in the areas above the cliffs of Iron Canyon along both the Annie Bidwell and Yahi Trails. 6 in tall.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Ranunculaceae

[Clematis lasiantha](#)

[CHAPARRAL CLEMATIS, PIPESTEM CLEMATIS](#)



Our splendid spring-blooming wild Clematis. It is a vine and climbs shrubs and trees. Best on the Annie Bidwell Trail between Alligator Bluff and I-Ford. Look for them blooming in Mar-Apr.





Clematis in bloom

Another photo







Clematis going to seed

[UC Berkeley Jepson video](#) on Clematis on YouTube

Another photo next page







Clematis in seed

Family: Ranunculaceae

[Delphinium nudicaule](#)

[RED or ORANGE LARKSPUR](#)



Our regal orange-red Larkspur. Height 1-2 ft blooming Feb-May in rocky shaded areas along the upper Yahi Trail and Legacy Trails.

Family: Ranunculaceae

[Delphinium spp.](#)

[LARKSPUR](#)



There are reported to be 4 species of purple larkspur in Upper Park:

- [Delphinium hansenii subsp hansenii](#)
- [Delphinium hesperium](#)
- [Delphinium patens subsp patens](#)
- [Delphinium variegatum subsp variegatum](#)

D. hansenii hybridizes with D. hesperium and D. variegatum

D. hesperium hybridizes with D. variegatum

D. patens hybridizes with D. nudicaule and D. variegatum



*D. variegatum* hybridizes with *D. hansenii*, *D. hesperium*, and *D. patens*

We have found that the [Jepson eFlora key](#) does not work for most *Delphinium* specimens along the Yahí, Legacy, and Annie Bidwell Trails. Except that the [Red Larkspur](#) [D.nudicaule](#) which does not appear to have hybridized with *D. patens*.

So the purple *Delphinium*s in Upper Park are usually best referred to by the generalized genus name: Larkspurs.



Large flowered dark purple specimens with flowers close to the main axis in open grasslands are probably primarily genetically

*Delphinium variegatum*

Royal Larkspur



Family: Ranunculaceae

[\*Enemion occidentale\*](#)

[WESTERN RUE-ANEMONE](#)



Delicate, pretty little flower about 6 in tall. Found along Legacy and upper Annie Bidwell Trails, especially at Lovejoy View. Look for them blooming in Mar.





Pink sometimes

[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)

Family: Ranunculaceae

[Ranunculus californicus var. californicus](#)

[California Buttercup](#)



Buttercups are found Feb into Apr in wooded grasslands, especially upstream from Iron Canyon. Usually a foot or two tall.

See our [Buttercup Key](#)





Family: Ranunculaceae

[Ranunculus canus var. canus](#)

[Sacramento Valley Buttercup](#)



Buttercups are found Feb into Apr in wooded grasslands, especially upstream from Iron Canyon. Usually a foot or two tall. See our [Buttercup Key](#)

Family: Ranunculaceae

[Ranunculus muricatus](#)

[Prickle-seeded Buttercup](#)



About 6 in tall. Found in wet areas blooming Mar-May. We have found them at Iron Canyon Springs along the Yahi Trail and in drainage areas along the middle third of the Annie Bidwell Trail.

See our [Buttercup Key](#)

Family: Ranunculaceae

[Ranunculus occidentalis var. occidentalis](#)

[Western Buttercup](#)



Buttercups are found Feb into Apr in wooded grasslands, especially upstream from Iron Canyon. Usually a foot or two tall.

See our [Buttercup Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Rhamnaceae

[Ceanothus cuneatus var. cuneatus](#)

[BUCKBRUSH](#)



A large shrub. Common in Upper Park. Blooms Feb-Mar.



[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Rhamnaceae

[Ceanothus integerrimus](#)

[DEER BRUSH](#)



A large shrub. Found in many areas in Upper Park, especially upper Annie Bidwell trail as you approach Ten-Mile Road.

Look for them blooming in Apr-May.

Color varies: 



Family: Rhamnaceae

[Frangula californica subsp. tomentella](#)

[California Coffee Berry](#)



A medium sized shrub that is widespread in Upper Park and whose inconspicuous blooms may be found in January.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Rosaceae

[Cercocarpus betuloides var. betuloides](#)

[BIRCH-LEAF MOUNTAIN-MAHOGANY](#)



A large shrub found along the Upper Yahi and Annie Bidwell Trails. Also Annie Bidwell Trail at Alligator Bluff.  
Look for them blooming in Mar.

See more photos







Flowers



fruit

Family: Rosaceae

[Drymocallis glandulosa var. glandulosa](#)

[Sticky Cinquefoil](#)



We have found this only on Fern Cliff near the beginning of the Annie Bidwell Trail, and again at the stone steps just past Alligator Bluff.

1-2 ft tall blooming in Apr-May

See more photos next page





Family: Rosaceae

[Heteromeles arbutifolia](#)

[CHRISTMAS BERRY, TOYON](#)



An abundant large shrub found in many areas along our trails. Look for them blooming in June, with berries in Dec.







Family: Rosaceae

[Prunus cerasifera](#)

[CHERRY PLUM](#)



A small tree found roadside just before the start of the Yahi Trail. Also off trail Salmon Hole area. Blooming in Feb, fruit ripening in May



Family: Rosaceae

[Pyrus calleryana](#)

[Callery Pear](#)



There a lovely specimen adjacent to the Annie Bidwell Trail just before I-Ford. Beautiful floral display may be found in late Feb, fruit in Nov.









CalPhotos (none)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Rosaceae

[Rosa californica](#)

[CALIFORNIA ROSE](#)



A gorgeous wild rose. Roses hybridize freely and there are a couple other species known in Upper Park, but the specimens we have found are genetically at least mostly *R.*

*californica*. They are open shrubs maybe 2-5 ft tall. Look for them blooming in May on the Yahi Trail just before Day Camp, just past I-Ford, and at Diversion Dam Spring. Also on the Annie Bidwell Trail at a damp area across Iron Canyon from Salmon Hole.





Family: Rosaceae

[Rubus armeniacus](#)

[HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY](#)



A very prickly vine. Found near the start of the Yahi Trail, at Salmon Springs, approaching T-Ford on the Yahi Trail. On The Annie Bidwell Trail in a damp area across from Salmon Hole.

Look for them blooming in May.

See our [Blackberry Key](#)

When they get sufficient water they have very edible berries.

See next page





Family: Rosaceae

[Rubus ursinus](#)

[CALIFORNIA BLACKBERRY](#)



A mediumly prickly vine. Found blooming in Apr. There is a patch of them at at Rock Wall Seeps on the Annie Bidwell Trail, also on the Yahi Trail between Alligator Hole and Day Camp.

The berries are usually not juicy and not very good eating,

although they are [a parent of boysenberry](#).

See our [Blackberry Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Rubiaceae

[Cephalanthus occidentalis](#)

[CALIFORNIA BUTTON WILLOW](#)



A very distinctive shrub about 3 ft tall. They occur along the Yahi Trail for a few hundred yards before you get to Bear Hole. Look for them blooming in late June

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)



Family: Rutaceae  
[Ptelea crenulate](#)  
[California Hop Tree](#)



A small glossy tree. See them blooming in Apr-May along the Annie Bidwell Trail between Bloody Pin and 10-Mile Road.

See fruit photo next page





See our [Dog/Hop Key](#) to compare them to Dogwood.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Sapindaceae

[Aesculus californica](#)

[CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE](#)



Buckeye are a small tree. There are many of them just past Fern Cliff near the beginning of the Annie Bidwell Trail. Look for them blooming in May, when they are quite impressive. More photos next 2 pages



See [Jepson video](#) about California Buckeye  
They have large seeds, which look attractive. But all parts of  
the plant are [toxic](#).





Sprouting seed




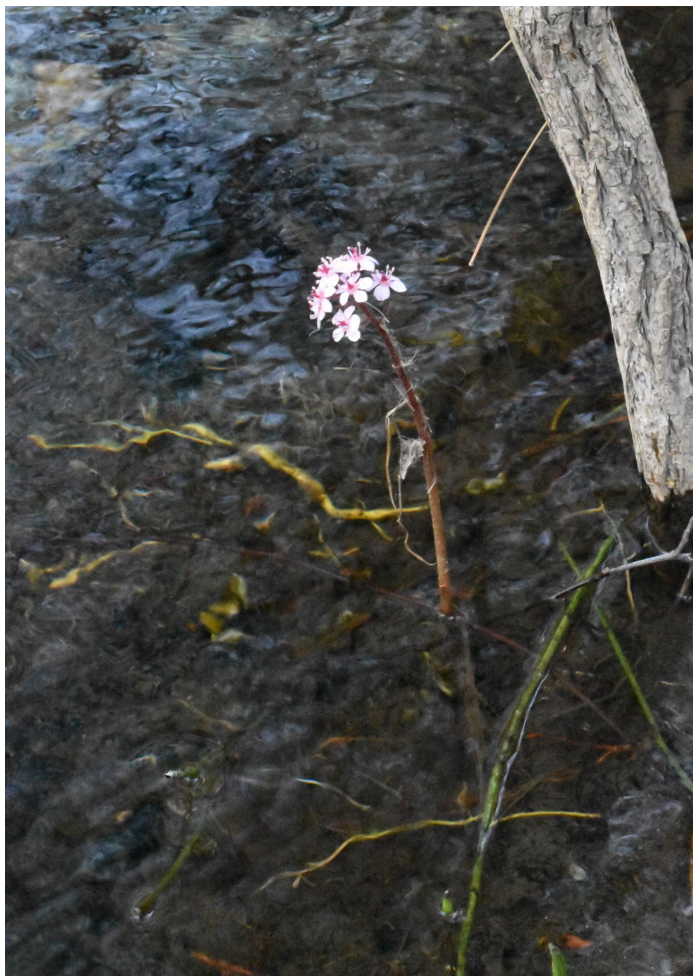
Family: Saxifragaceae

[\*Darmera peltata\*](#)

[Umbrella Plant](#)



An exceptionally fine species. Their thick scaly rhizomes adhere to the creekbed, and through the winter they have no leaves. In April the flower stalks sprout through the water and emerge bravely leafless. By mid-summer the leaves have grown, sometimes three ft across (eg at the Parking Area R swimming hole if you waded upstream you may find some that large). And in autumn at higher elevations, such as Deer Creek up along Hwy 32, they have great fall color. Look for them in Big Chico Creek from J-Ford on up to T-Ford. 





Family: Saxifragaceae

[Heuchera micrantha](#)

[Crevice Alumroot](#)



Found on Fern Cliff near the beginning of the Annie Bidwell Trail. About 1 foot and a half tall. Look for them blooming in April.



Family: Saxifragaceae

[Lithophragma bolanderi](#)

[Bolander's Woodland Star](#)



Fairly widespread along the Annie Bidwell trail and the upper parts of the Yahí Trail. About a foot tall, and found blooming in Apr.

More photos





Family: Saxifragaceae

[Micranthes californica](#)

[California Saxifrage](#)



Our favorite of the Saxifrages, well-proportioned with an open inflorescence. About a foot tall, look for them blooming in Mar-early Apr. There is an excellent patch of them on Fern Cliff (near the start of the Annie Bidwell Trail), but also found on occasion in damp areas elsewhere along the trails.

See our [Micranthes Key](#) to learn how to distinguish among species of this difficult genus. Also see [White Mid-sized Key](#)

Family: Saxifragaceae

[Micranthes fragosa](#)

[Brittle-leaved Saxifrage](#)



We have found this species in damp areas along much of the Annie Bidwell Trail. Look for them on the rock near the carved stone steps just past Alligator Bluff. Blooming in late Feb and Mar. About 1 ft tall. See our [Micranthes Key](#)



Family: Saxifragaceae

[Micranthes integrifolia](#)

[Common Western Saxifrage](#)



We've found these along the Annie Bidwell Trail at Fern Cliff, across from Salmon Hole, and up past Bloody Pin. Look for them blooming in late Jan-Feb. They are 1-2 ft tall.

See our [Micranthes Key](#)

Family: Saxifragaceae

[Micranthes nidifica](#)

[Peak Saxifrage](#)



Found along Annie Bidwell and Yahi Trails at Iron Canyon upstream from Salmon Hole. We found the blooming only in Feb. They are usually a foot tall or less.

See our [Micranthes Key](#)

Family: Scrophulariaceae

[Scrophularia californica](#)

[CALIFORNIA FIGWORT](#)



About 3 ft tall. Found on the Yahí Trail at the junction to R-Swimming Hole, and on Legacy Trail between Annie Bidwell junction and base of Lovejoy Falls. Blooming late Mar-early May

See next page for another photo







Family: Scrophulariaceae

[Verbascum blattaria](#)

[MOTH MULLEIN](#)



We have found this only at Diversion Dam Spring on Yahí Trail. 2-3 ft tall. Blooms in May.

Another photo next page



[CalFlora](#)[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Scrophulariaceae

[Verbascum thapsus](#)

[WOOLLY MULLEIN](#)



A common weedy plant, often found in burned areas in the mountains; we found it just once in Upper Park; found along the Annie Bidwell Trail just as the trail enters the Olive

Orchard next to the Golf Course. About 4 ft trail and  
blooming in late June.





Family: Smilacaceae

[Smilax californica](#)

[California Greenbrier](#)



A quirky vine of which there is a large patch on the Yahi Trail at the Greenbrier interpretive sign a little before Day Camp.

Blooms in May





Family: Solanaceae

[Solanum parishii](#)

[Parish's Nightshade](#)



The Nightshade genus contains the Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*). However most members of the genus are toxic, do NOT eat the fruit of wild nightshade. These are not common in Upper Park, but when they do occur are about 1-2 feet tall. We found these near the west end of the Legacy Trail in a recently burned area. [CalPhotos](#) [CalFlora](#)

Family: Tecophilaeaceae

[Odontostomum hartwegii](#)

[Hartweg's Odontostomum](#)



About a foot tall. Found in open grassy areas with clay soil. Look for them blooming in Apr-May along the Annie Bidwell trail from Bear Hole to Bloody Pin.

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Themidaceae

[Brodiaea californica](#)

[CALIFORNIA BRODIAEA](#)



Watch [Jepson eFlora video](#)

Photos of color variations





Rarely white, often purple (see next page)

Beautiful large pink flower are unmistakable, but they come in purple as well, so see our [Brodiaea Key](#).

1-2 ft tall. Look for them blooming in May, especially along Yahí Trail near Bear and Salmon Holes.

*continues*





Family: Themidaceae

[Brodiaea elegans subsp. elegans](#)

[HARVEST BRODIAEA](#)



1-2ft tall. Common in many areas along our trail. Look for them blooming during the month of May.

Watch [Jepson eFlora video](#). See our [Brodiaea Key](#)  
[CalPhotos](#) [CalFlora](#)



Family: Themidaceae

[Brodiaea sierrae](#)

[SIERRA FOOTHILLS BRODIAEA](#)



2-3 ft tall. Look for them blooming in May-June along the upper reaches of the Yahí and Legacy Trails approaching T-Ford.

Watch [Jepson eFlora video](#)

See our [Brodiaea Key](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Themidaceae

[Dichelostemma congestum](#)

[FORK-TOOTHED OOKOW](#)



Not common. Found along the Yahi and Legacy Trails approaching T-Ford. About 2 ft tall, look for them blooming in May. See our [Key](#)

See [Jepson eFlora video](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Themidaceae

[Dichelostemma multiflorum](#)

[WILD HYACINTH](#)



Common in grasslands in Upper Park. Abundant in Diversion Dam to Salmon Hole area. 1-2 ft tall, look for them blooming Mar-May

See our [Key](#)

Watch [Jepson eFlora video](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Themidaceae

[Dichelostemma volubile](#)

[TWINING BRODIAEA, SNAKE LILY](#)



What a strange and wonderful plant! Widespread and common along the trails of Upper Park. Unique and so easy to identify. Blooms in Apr-May.

Watch [Jepson eFlora video](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Themidaceae

[Dipterostemon capitatus](#)

[BLUE DICKS](#)



Blue Dicks are a California classic. They are one of the State's most widespread species, and are common to abundant along our trails. 1-2 ft tall, look for them blooming Jan-May.

See our [Key](#)

Watch [Jepson eFlora video](#)



Rarely come in white:



[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

Family: Themidaceae

[Triteleia bridgesii](#)

[Bridge's Triteleia](#)



2-3 ft tall. One of the most beautiful and dramatic of our flower species. They may be found in many locations along the trail, blooming Mar-May.

See the [Purple Triteleia Key](#).

Watch [Jepson eFlora video](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Themidaceae

[Triteleia hyacinthina](#)

[WHITE BRODIAEA, FOOL'S ONION](#)



White Brodiaea are about a foot tall and bloom in May. Look for them in the boggy area at Iron Canyon Springs on the Yahi Trail

See [White Mid-sized Key](#)

Watch [Jepson eFlora video](#)



Family: Themidaceae

[Triteleia laxa](#)

[ITHURIEL'S SPEAR, COMMON TRITELEIA](#)



About 2-3 ft tall. Common along the trails, they provide much color with their large inflorescences and long blooming season. Look for the blooming Feb-May.

See the [Purple Triteleia Key](#)

more





Rarely come in white

Watch [Jepson eFlora video](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Themidaceae

[Triteleia lilacina](#)

[Glassy Wild Hyacinth](#)



These are a sparkling beauty. Look for them in the grasslands along the Yahi Trail between Bear Hole and Turkey Vulture Soaring Area (Parking Area P). They are about 7 in tall and bloom in April

See [White Mid-sized Key](#)

Watch [Jepson eFlora video](#)

Family: Valerianaceae

[Plectritis ciliosa](#)

[Long-spurred Pink Plectritis](#)



About 4 in tall. Look for them in various damp place along the Annie Bidwell Trail J-Ford to Bloody Pin Trail. We found them blooming in Mar-early Apr.

See the [Plectritis Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)



Family: Valerianaceae

[Plectritis macrocera](#)

[White Plectritis](#)



About 4 in tall. Found in vernal wet spots in grasslands. Look for them in spots along the Annie Bidwell Trail, just before the signpost across from Bear Hole is one. Also the rock face at the carved steps just past Alligator Bluff.

Blooming mid Feb-mid Apr.. See the [Plectritis Key](#)

[CalFlora](#)

[CalPhotos](#)

[Family: Verbenaceae](#)

[Verbena hastata](#)

[American Blue Verbena](#)



This such an unusual & impressively large plant (to 5-ft tall) we thought it must be a garden escapee. But it is indeed a California native species. We have only found them two places: at the huge agave on the Yahi Trail just east of Bear Hole, and in the nearby boggy Diversion Dam Spring. Blooms in July.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)

Family: Viburnaceae

[Sambucus mexicana](#)

[BLUE ELDERBERRY](#)



A large shrub. Look for them on Yahí, Golf Course Cutoff, and Annie Bidwell Trails in vicinity of Golf Course. Blooms in May. Berries ripen in July, see next page



[CalPhotos](#)[CalFlora](#)



Family: Vitaceae

[Vitis californica](#)

[CALIFORNIA WILD GRAPE](#)



Our Wild Grape is a vine on the ground or a climber high into the trees. Rather inconspicuous flowers in May-June. They have real grapes which are edible. The fruit are best from specimens which root near the creek, in drier areas the fruit are not as juicy. The vines can be huge, up to 5-inch diameter at their bases and climb far into the largest cottonwood trees. Wild Grape provides some of our best wildland Fall color. See CalPhotos for pictures of autumnal color and ripe fruit.

[CalPhotos](#)

[CalFlora](#)