

Pholistoma auritum (Lindl.) Lilja var. *auritum*, COMMON FIESTA FLOWER. Annual, viney and easily wilted, taprooted, several-stemmed at base, highly branched, reclining and \pm clambering over itself and other low plants, to 85 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, brittle-stemmed, hooked-puberulent and conspicuously prickly with larger, recurved, teethlike hairs (prickles). **Stems:** 4-sided, 1–4 mm in diameter, fleshy, green, with short, hooked hairs on faces and prickles typically restricted to edges. **Leaves:** opposite decussate and mostly helically alternate, deeply pinnately lobed with 5–13 opposite or alternate lobes, petiolate with pair nearly fused across node (the lowermost leaves) and clasping (most leaves), without stipules; petiole leaflike with wide-winged margins, flattened and channeled, to 45 mm long, to 25 mm wide across rounded basal lobes, tapered toward blade, entire and wavy on margins, hooked-puberulent with delicate long hairs along channel, prickly on margins, lower side of axis V-shaped with prickles along edge; blade lanceolate in outline, 25–270 \times 10–110 mm, lobes narrowly oblong to linear-lanceolate or sickle-shaped lanceolate, 6–60 mm long, \perp to midrib or slightly curved backward, widening at base on forward side, rounded to acute at lobe tips, pinnately veined with midrib and principal vein of lobe raised on lower surface, hooked-puberulent with longer straight hairs having swollen persistent, swollen bases, lower surface with recurved prickles along principal veins. **Inflorescence:** cyme, simple or compound, terminal and axillary but peduncle arising opposite leaf at node, open, each unit typically 4-flowered, hooked-puberulent and with recurved prickles; peduncle 3–4-sided, 20–40 mm long, thinner than stem, prickly along angles, sparsely hooked-puberulent and with longer hairs; bracts opposite but typically present only for the lowest pedicel, leaflike, $<$ pedicel, lobed-clasping, if present at second pedicel lacking most of blade; pedicel $<$ peduncle and thinner, reddish purple, hooked-puberulent, long-hairy, and with dense prickles. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 10–22 mm across; **calyx** 5(–6)-lobed, with 5(–6) sinus appendages, green, hooked-puberulent and bristly-ciliate with recurved prickles; tube dishlike, 2–3 mm long, veins on outer surface with recurved and straight prickles, with appressed, straight white bristles on inner surface radiating at base in a flat circle; lobes ascending, triangular-lanceolate, 4–6(–9) mm long, bristly-ciliate straight on margins, with 1–2 recurved prickles along midrib at base, inner surface with many short hooked hairs; appendages narrowly ovate and incurved to reflexed, 1–2 mm long, margins with recurved bristles, sometimes tinged purplish on margins; **corolla** 5(–6)-lobed, 7–15 mm long, in bud with 5 dimples on throat opposite and concealed by calyx lobes; tube ca. 3.5 mm long, with 5(–6) pouches projecting between calyx lobes, with 10 scales at base, patches whitish, dimples purplish with orange-brown blotch opposite filament; scales 2 per filament, free and partially enveloping base of filament, \pm triangular, 1.5–2 mm long, with tip curving, short-fringed on margins, inner surface violet to purple in upper part, whitish on margins with orange-brown spot at free end; throat constricted above tube, hooked-puberulent; lobes overlapping, rounded, blue-lavender to light purple, often pilose where exposed in bud; **stamens** 5(–6), fused near base of corolla tube; filaments erect, equal, 3.5–5 mm long, violet, glabrous, glossy; anthers exerted, versatile, dithecal, narrowly blunt arrow-shaped, 2–2.3 \times 0.8–1 mm, very deep purple, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen \pm colorless to tannish; **nectary disc** encircling base of pistil, ringlike, $>$ ovary, pale green, sparsely hooked-puberulent; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, \pm conic, \pm 1 \times 1.2 mm, light green, puberulent (some hooked), with dense, stiff, erect hairs above midpoint, 1-chambered with 4 ovules

along 2 placentae; style 4–8 mm long, pale lavender-pink, short-hairy, short-2–3-(6-)branched, the branches erect, 0.5–1 mm long; stigmas terminal, pale lavender to grayish. **Fruit:** capsule, 2-valved, 1–4-seeded, subspheroid-ovoid, 6–7 mm long, tannish, puberulent and with stiff hairs near tip. **Seed:** spheric, \pm 1.6 mm, brown, conspicuously honeycombed. Late January–late May.

Native. A viney annual occurring throughout the range in comparatively moist situations, e.g., shaded or north-facing slopes, especially in chaparral or on the edges of woodland. With shoots and inflorescences, *Pholistoma auritum* easily catches the skin and cloth via its large pricklelike hairs, but it also has shorter hooked hairs; when collected, parts of the plant typically cling to one another. Its leaves are deeply lobed and have clasping bases (auriculate), hence the specific epithet. From side view of this purple flower, one can easily see the appendages of the calyx and the pouches on the corolla tube; from face view are seen versatile, deep purple anthers on glossy purple filaments and intricate, paired, fringed scales of the corolla enclosing the filament bases.
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