

*Silene verecunda* S. Watson, SAN FRANCISCO CAMPION. Perennial herb, several–many-stemmed at base from woody caudex, ascending to erect, 20–55 cm tall; shoots with persistent leaf bases, densely glandular-pubescent throughout with erect hairs (septate), somewhat viscid, mildly scented. **Stems:** cylindrical, to 3 mm diameter, tough, internodes to 75 mm long, swollen at nodes. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, short-petiolate (basal leaves) and sessile with pair fused around stem, without stipules; petiole indistinct from blade; blade oblanceolate to linear-lanceolate, in range 25–78 × 2.5–12 mm, long-tapered to broadly tapered at base or linear above flared base, entire, narrowly acute to acuminate at tip, faintly pinnately veined with midrib conspicuous and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme (sometimes 1 lateral branch or branchlet not forming), terminal and axillary, open, mostly forked 3 times, bracteate, with ascending to erect flowers, bracteate, densely glandular-pubescent and viscid; peduncle to 80 mm long; bracts 2 and pair fused across node below fork, leaflike, lanceolate, < 10 × 1–2 mm, reduced upward; pedicel spreading, straight, 4–10 mm long increasing to 3× in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 10–12 mm across; hypanthium (receptacle) extending up ± 1 mm, surrounding stalk of pistil (stipe); **calyx** 5-lobed, cylindrical to somewhat urn-shaped, at anthesis 10–12 × 2.5–3 mm becoming ca. 3.5 mm wide in fruit; tube conspicuously 10-veined, the veins raised and green, the furrows membranous, glabrous, densely glandular-pubescent, viscid; lobes erect to ascending, acute, 2.5–3 mm long, with membranous margins, sometimes purplish on margins; **petals** 5, arising from rim of hypanthium, clawed, appendaged, claw ± linear but tapered to narrow base, 4–10 mm long, translucent with colorless margins, ciliate at base and often pubescent to midpoint on outer surface; limb spreading, 2-lobed and narrowly obovate, 4–7 × 2.5 mm, 3-ribbed on lower (outer) side, with a pair of short teeth close to sinus, lobes 1.5–2.5 mm long, whitish to greenish or rose, darker at margins; appendages at base of limb 2, appressed, ± rectangular, 0.5–1 mm long, rose and darker than limb, fringed; **stamens** 10, free, arising on rim of hypanthium, 5 exerted 4–5 mm, 5 included = calyx length; filaments cylindrical, translucent-white with exerted tips light pink, conspicuously villous to midpoint (above ovary); anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 1.8–2.5 mm long, white or greenish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** 1, stalked (stipe) 1 mm long or more as fruit matures; ovary superior, sausage-shaped, at anthesis 2–3.5 mm long, green, glabrous, 3-chambered, each chamber with many ovules attached to center; styles 3, included, < stamen length, erect, 5–9 mm long increasing 2× in fruit, translucent-white, persistent, stigmatic above midpoint. **Fruit:** capsule, stipe (gynophore) to 3 mm long with tip often visible above calyx, dehiscent at tip by 6 valve teeth, many-seeded, narrowly ovoid, 9–10 × 3 mm, glabrous; stipe 2–5 mm long, puberulent. **Seed:** kidney-shaped compressed side-to-side, 1.2–1.5 × 0.8–1 mm, glossy reddish brown below a dull tannish layer, conspicuously bumpy (tuberculate) on back, with tubercles grading into radially elongated, flatter cells on side of seed, finely and deeply sinusoidal at juncture of tubercles. Mid June–late August.

Native. A viscid perennial herb rare in SMM, known from sandstone outcrops and the ridge east of Castro Peak. *Silene verecunda* grows in rock crevices between large boulders and flowers during midsummer on the outcrops with *Eriastrum densifolium* subsp. *elongatum* and *Deinandra minthornii*. San Francisco campion is a highly variable species

within its range, and experts no longer recognize subspecies *platyota*, which is the local form.

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