Stillingia linearifolia S. Watson, LINEAR-LEAVED STILLINGIA. Perennial herb, woody-taprooted, not rosetted, several–many-stemmed at base, erect with suberect to ascending branches, 30–70 cm tall; monoecious; shoots glabrous, glaucous; latex cloudy. **Stems:** somewhat compressed and 1-ridged, to 2.5 mm diameter, with a blunt ridge descending from each leaf, green (photosynthetic) and faintly striped becoming dark purplish red, at base eventually forming tannish to light orangey brown periderm at base. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, subsessile to short-petiolate, with stipules; stipules (1–)2(–3), attached to side of petiole just above base and pointed toward blade, unequal, peglike to narrowly conic, < 0.5 mm long, mostly bright deep pink or sometimes pale green with whitish or pale yellowish brown at tip, often capped with exudate; petiole channeled, < 0.7 mm long, pale green; blade linear to linear-elliptic, 2.5–23.5 × 0.6–2.1 mm, long-tapered at base, entire or minutely toothed on margins (10×) with 1–4 teeth (commonly only on 1 margin), becoming reddish on margins, acute at tip, midrib only visible on lower surface, teeth bright deep pink at tips. **Inflorescence:** spikelike, terminal, 27–62 mm long, many-flowered, with several, sessile pistillate flowers on lower 1/3–2/3 and > 20 subsessile staminate flowers above, bracteate, with stalked glandular hairs; peduncle absent or < 0.5 mm long; bractlet subtending pistillate flower partially fused to ovary base or free, pentagonal to ovate, 0.8–1.2 × 0.6–1 mm, yellowish green but purplish red on margin at tip, obtuse to acute or acuminate at tip, having 2 diverging, trumpet-shaped glands (stipules), gland fused to each side at base, stalked, kidney-shaped to elliptic in outline with a concave contour, 0.7–1 mm long, greenish yellow, persistent after fruits split apart; bractlet subtending staminate flower rhombic, 0.7–0.9 × 0.7–0.9 mm, with 2 trumpet-shaped glands (stipules) fused to each side at base, the gland short-stalked, 0.3–0.5 mm long, ca. 0.25 mm wide, partially concealed by bractlet, persistent; pedicel (staminate flower) stout, ca. 0.25 mm long. **Staminate flower:** radial, 1 mm across; **calyx** 2-lobed; tube bowl-shaped, green at base with yellow-green below lobes and purplish red at sinuses; lobes deltate or somewhat flattened at top, 0.5–0.8 × 0.7–1 mm, yellowish green with purplish red margins, obtuse to broadly acute at tip; **corolla** absent; **stamens** 2, exserted; filaments cylindric, 0.7–0.9 × 0.3 mm, green; anthers basifixed, dithecal with divergent sacs, ovoid to oblong, 0.5–0.7 × 0.5 mm, olive brown with yellow along top, dehiscent along top edge; pollen yellow; **pistil** absent. **Pistillate flower:** radial, 1.5 mm across; **calyx** absent; **corolla** absent; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1, ovary superior, spheroid and strongly 3-lobed, 1–1.2 mm, green, glaucous, grooved between lobes, 3-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 3, fused at base for ca. 0.25 mm, the branches ascending later spreading, 1.2–1.5 mm long, dark red, 1/2–1-coiled at tip, shallowly grooved and stigmatic on upper side. **Fruit:** capsule, septicidal, 3-seeded, deeply 3-lobed, 2.7–3 × 2.5–3.5 mm. **Seed:** ovoid, ca. 2.2 × 1.7 mm, whitish and mottled with black, when immature with 1 fine line base to tip, papillate-granulate; caruncle bulbous, < 1 mm long, whitish, typically not attached to mature seed. Early April–late May.

Waif (native). Perennial herb found by a SMMNRA employee growing on an old, abandoned roadbed about one kilometer south-southwest of a large landfill at SMMNRA Cheeseboro-Palo Comado. *Stillingia linearifolia* is a species characteristic of sandy desert washes and runnels in southern California; it uses a deep taproot to obtain enough water from a deep, moist layer to grow during drought months, and thrives possessing the

adaptation of stem photosynthesis. The spikelike inflorescence has up to six pistillate flowers at the base and above many showy, but minute, staminate flowers. The bractlets are peculiar in having glandular stipules that are more obvious than the bractlet on which they are produced.
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