

Zeltnera venusta (A. Gray) G. Mans., CANCHALAGUA. Annual, slender-taprooted, 1-stemmed at base, with a branched, terminal inflorescence, erect, 4–30(–50) cm tall; shoots with cauline leaves ascending or erect and appressed to stem, glabrous. **Stems:** 4-sided, to 2 mm diameter, narrowly winged at angles descending from leaf margins, tough, light green. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade oblong to lanceolate or narrowly ovate, 5–32 × 1.5–9 mm, typically << internode but sometimes lower leaves ≥ internode, dull, entire and often with margins loosely inrolled under (revolute), acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** simple or compound cyme, terminal and sometimes axillary, open, several–many-flowered, bracteate, glabrous; bracts subtending cymes and bractlets subtending flowers in pairs, leaflike, decreasing upward; peduncle ± erect, stemlike; pedicel suberect to ascending, stemlike, at anthesis < 10 mm long increasing to 25 mm long in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, in range 13–30 mm across; **calyx** (4–)5-lobed; tube ca. 1 mm long; lobes appressed, linear and keeled, (5–)7–14 mm long, 0.7–1 mm wide at base, green with membranous margins, acute at tip, adherent to corolla tube, persistent; **corolla** (4–)5-lobed, trumpet-shaped (salverform) with conspicuous horizontal lobes; tube narrowly fusiform (conforming to ovary), (7–)13.5–16 mm long, colorless and greenish above, delicate and stretched with ovary expansion, 10-ribbed above with principal veins beneath each calyx lobe; throat ± 3 mm long, ca. 1 mm wide and green at base, ca. 3 mm wide and white at orifice; lobes elliptic-ovate, 5–15 × 6–7 mm, in range dark rose to strong reddish purple with white at base, the white area of adjacent lobes and upper throat forming a pentagonal center with points at midlobes or creating a pentafoil; **stamens** (4–)5, fused to base of corolla throat, alternate with corolla lobes, exserted; filaments 6–7 mm long, green at base and white or white and rose above midpoint, glabrous; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 6 × 1 mm prior to dehiscing, bright yellow, longitudinally dehiscent becoming tightly helical and ca. 3 mm long after dehiscing; pollen bright yellow; **pistil** 1, exserted 2 mm > stamens; ovary superior, oblong and somewhat 4-sided, ± = calyx length × 1.4–2.5 mm diameter, 1-chambered and longitudinally grooved over each placenta, the 2 placenta intruding with numerous ovules; style thin, 8–9 mm long, 2-branched ± 1.5 mm from tip, the branches arching sideways and at anthesis with stigma placed over 1 of corolla lobes; stigmas fan-shaped, fleshy, yellowish green, initially appressed to each other later spreading when receptive, papillate on upper (inner) surface. **Fruit:** capsule, septicidal, dehiscent by 2 valves, many-seeded, narrowly fusiform-cylindric, 10–12 mm long, dehiscing most of its length, tips of valves straight. **Seed:** D-shaped, 0.25 × 0.2 mm, brown, conspicuously netlike. Mid-May–late June.

Native. Annual appearing in isolated, highly localized populations in openings of chaparral and coastal sage scrub. *Zeltnera venusta*, more commonly known as *Centaurium venustum*, is infrequently encountered and does not germinate every year. It is a symmetric plant with distinctive, showy flowers, which have a white center and in a dark rose corolla, and the flower has exserted stamens with yellow anthers that become conspicuously twisted after dehiscing.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson