**Lepechinia fragrans** (Greene) Epling, FRAGRANT PITCHER SAGE.  Shrub, drought deciduous to semi-evergreen, much-branched, 100–200 cm tall; shoots velveteen, whitish tomentose with soft, long, branched (dendritic) hairs, shorter unbranched hairs, and small, sessile glandular hairs, strongly aromatic. **Stems:** young stems 4-sided (± square in × -section), rounded on edges, ca. 5 mm diameter, green; older branches with orange-brown bark. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole 10–30 mm long; blade deltate or ovate to heart-shaped or with spreading basal lobes (hastate), 55–140 × 30–90 mm, typically truncate at base, dentate on margins, acute at tip, pinnately veined with veins raised on lower surface, soft and velvety texture or feeling sticky to clammy. **Inflorescence:** leafy raceme, terminal and axillary, 10+-flowered, lacking verticils, bracteate; bractlet subtending pedicel leaflike, triangular to heart-shaped, 11–75 × 6–40 mm, sessile; pedicel slender, 11–35 mm long, bearing stalked glandular hairs and dendritic hairs. **Flower:** bisexual, bilateral, ± 10 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, inflated at the base, light green; tube 7.5–13 mm long, with long dendritic hairs and short, capitulate glandular hairs, internally glabrous; lobes subequal, triangular-lanceolate, 10–18 × 3.5–6 mm, at least as long as calyx tube and sometimes extending to near the end of corolla tube, lobes 3-veined, with dendritic hairs on both surfaces but internally sparser; **corolla** 5-lobed, 20–35 mm long, very pale lavender to white with faint lavender markings on lateral sides, externally with dendritic hairs, hairs the densest on lobes and upper throat to glabrous on lower throat; tube ± 6 mm long, with a dense ring of white hairs concealing nectary and ovary at constriction between tube and throat; throat ca. 20 mm long, expanded, somewhat inflated on lower side, conspicuously ridged on floor; lower lobe liliaceous, rhombic when flattened, 8–10 × 6–8 mm, notched to entire at tip; other lobes subequal, semicircular, 2.5 × 4 mm; **stamens** 4, dimorphic, 2 short and 2 longer, the longer pair 10–12 mm long and attached on floor of throat (lower stamens) with 1 on each side but slightly lower than ridge, the shorter pair 3–5 mm long (upper stamens), attached midthroat below upper 2 corolla lobes; filaments strongly curved and positioning anthers against roof of throat, white, glabrous; anthers included, dithecal, 2.5–3 mm long, saccs spreading and rounded across tips, lavender, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale lavender; **nectary disc** beneath ovary, domelike, 2 mm across, white; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, strongly 4-lobed, lobes spheric, 0.8 mm, 2-chambered, each lobe with 1 ovule; style attached to ovary base at center of ovary lobes (gynobasic), 20–25 mm long, white; stigmas 2, exserted ± 3 mm beyond anther of longer stamens, ca. 1.3 mm long, acute, glabrous. **Fruit:** nutlets, (1–)4, obovoid, in range 4–4.5 × 3 mm, ± dull dark brown, smooth, glabrous, with thick pericarp; scar slightly oblique, linear-fusiform, 0.4–0.5 mm long, white. Early April–mid-July.

Native. Very aromatic, velveteen shrub of chaparral, riparian woodland, and southern oak woodland in relatively undisturbed regions of the central and western SMM. Although the corolla of *Lepechinia fragrans* typically is very pale lavender, at certain localities the flowers are essentially white.

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