

Piperia michaelii (Greene) Rydb.

MICHAEL'S REIN-ORCHID

Orchidaceae

Status:

CNPS Rare Plant Rank 4.2

Federal: unlisted

State: unlisted

State Rank: S3.2

Habitat: Generally dry sites. Coastal bluff scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, mixed-evergreen woodland. 3-915 meters (10-3,002 feet)



Ken Hickman



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Perianth green to yellow-green; spur 8-12 mm

Counties:

Alameda, Amador, Butte, Contra Costa, Fresno, Humboldt, Los Angeles*, Monterey, Marin, Santa Barbara, San Benito, **Santa Clara**, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Island, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, **San Mateo**, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura*?, Yuba

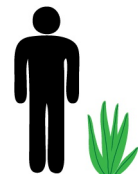
*Presumed extirpated
?*Uncertain about distribution, but presumed extirpated if once present

Life Form:

Monocot
perennial herb

Bloom period:

April - August



[CNPS Rare and Endangered Plant Inventory Listing](#)

[Jepson eFlora Taxon page](#)

[Jepson eFlora key](#)

[Calflora Taxon Report](#)

[CalPhotos Database Results](#)

[Consortium of California Herbaria Records](#)

Key to our local (San Mateo and Santa Clara County) *Piperia* *indicates Rare and/or Endangered species

1. Spur 6-18 mm
2. Spur straight, 6-12 mm, perpendicular to inflorescence axis; upper sepal pointed forward; stem generally < 3 mm diameter*P. transversa* (flat spurred piperia)
- 2' Spur ± curved, parallel to inflorescence axis; upper sepal ascending to erect to curved back; stem generally > 3 mm diameter
3. Sepals white with dark green midvein; spur 7-14 mm.....*P. elegans* ssp. *elegans* (coast piperia, elegant piperia)
- 3' Perianth green to yellow-green
4. Lip deltate-ovate; lower sepals spreading; spur 8-12 mm.....*P. michaelii** (Michael's rein-orchid)
- 4' Lip narrowly lanceolate or lance-deltate; lower sepals ± reflexed
5. Lateral petals ± sickle-shaped, 2 mm wide at base, 2-3 × as long; spur 6.5-18 mm.....*P. elongata* (chaparral orchid, wood rein-orchid)
- 5' Lateral petals linear, 1 mm wide at base, 4-5 × as long; spur 4-9 mm.....
.....*P. leptopetala** (2) (narrow-petaled rein-orchid)
- 1' Spur 1-6(9) mm
6. Perianth mostly white or white-margined on upper sepal, lateral petals, mostly white on lower sepals, lip; lip pointed down toward spur; spur 1.5-3.5 mm; inflorescence generally ± 1-sided; stem bracts < 6; lip ± ovate, ± obtuse.....*P. candida** (white-flowered rein orchid)
- 6' Perianth green; lip ± straight to strongly upcurved above middle
7. Lateral petals linear, 4-5 × longer than wide; spur 4-9 mm, tapered; fragrance lemony or otherwise pleasant but not honey-like.....*P. leptopetala** (2) (narrow-petaled rein-orchid)
- 7' Lateral petals lanceolate to deltate-ovate, < 3.5 × longer than wide; spur 2-5.5 mm; cylindrical, blunt; fragrance musky, soapy, or honey-like.....*P. unalascensis* (Alaska piperia, slender-spire orchid)