**Piperia leptopetala** Rydb.  
NARROW-PETALED REIN-ORCHID  
Orchidaceae

**Status:**  
CNPS Rare Plant Rank 4.3  
Federal: unlisted  
State: unlisted  
State Rank: S3.3

**Habitat:** Generally dry sites. Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, scrub, upper montane coniferous forest, woodland.  
380-2,225 meters (1,247-7,300 feet)

**Counts:**  
El Dorado, Fresno, Lake, Los Angeles, Monterey, Mariposa, Nevada, Orange, Plumas, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Benito, **Santa Clara**, San Diego, Shasta, Siskiyou, San Luis Obispo, Sonoma, Tulare

**Life Form:**  
Monocot perennial herb

**Bloom period:**  
May - July

Lateral petals linear, 4–5 × longer than wide; spur 4-9 mm

**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**

**CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter** • **www.cnps-scv.org** • **Last revised 09/09/2014**
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;
   cylindric, blunt; fragrance musky, soapy, or honey-like........... P. unalascensis
   (Alaska piperia, slender-spire orchid)