

***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)

Counties:

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](#)

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)