

Botanical Name: *Castilleja exserta*

Common Name: Owl's Clover



Family: Scrophulariaceae

Native Distribution: Hillsides, roadsides, flats, and sandy plains from California to S Arizona into NW Mexico

Plant Size: Up to 18" tall and 1' wide shrubby wildflower, annual

Flowers: Tiny yellow flower surrounded by brushy, magenta -purple bracts with lobes forming a yellow beak and "eye-spots" on the lower lip from March to May

Foliage: Feathery or ferny, thread-like lobes

Site Preferences: Full sun

Landscape Uses: Use in wildflower gardens or as annual color in native gardens.

Other Stuff:

- Grows best with other spring wildflowers including baby blue-eyes, California gold poppy, Lupines, orange globemallow, desert bluebells, and sideoats grama.
- Water once a month through the winter.
- Prefers sandy or gravelly well-drained mineral soil.
- Prefers elevations between 0 - 4500 ft.
- Called "escobita" in Spanish, which means "little broom."
- Faces of the flowers resemble an owl's face.
- Semiparasitic; taps into the roots of other plants to get most of its water and mineral nutrients.
- Attracts butterflies and bees.