



Sticky Monkey Flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*)

Family: Acanthaceae

Description: Sticky monkey flower is native to California, and ranges into southern Oregon and northern Baja California. This shrub grows up to 4 feet (1.2m) tall, has deep green, sticky leaves, and flowers on upright stems. The flowers are tubular at the base, with five broad lobes. Flowers come in a variety of shades, with light orange the most common.

Pollinator and Wildlife Use: These shrubs attract many pollinators including bees and hummingbirds. It is also an important host plant for Common Buckeye and Variable Checkerspot butterfly larvae, despite a phenolic resin in the leaves that deters feeding.

Ethnobotany: The Coast Miwok placed the crushed leaves on sores and burns. The roots were used to treat fever, dysentery, diarrhea, and to curtail hemorrhages. The Pomo used a decoction made from sticky monkey flower to treat sore, bloodshot eyes that affected many of the men and women who lived in smoky, poorly ventilated dwellings. The flowers were used to ornament Miwok wreaths and children's hair.

Other Facts: The monkey flower gets its common name from the flowers, which look like the faces of grinning monkeys. Sticky monkey flower grows in many climates and will thrive in many types of soil: wet, dry, sandy, or rocky. It even grows in serpentine, an inhospitable setting for most plants due to the soil's unique mineral composition.

Gerald and Buff Corsi
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References and Useful Websites:

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