

Apium L.

Apium graveolens L., CELERY. Aquatic biennial to perennial herb, taprooted, rosetted, several-stemmed at base, repeatedly branched in canopy, ascending to erect, 50–150 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves in a graded series of forms, glabrous, strongly celery-scented. **Stems:** strongly ridged, to 12 mm diameter, with ca. 10–12 principal ridges and fewer minor ridges descending from each leaf, tough, green but reddish at plant base especially along ridges; nodes solid, internodes hollow. **Leaves:** helically alternate, odd-1-pinnately compound with 3, 5, or 7(9) primary leaflets having paired lateral leaflets or deeply 3-lobed, petiolate, without stipules; petiole sheathing $\pm 2/3$ stem, broadly channeled, 20–210 mm long, flaring and with membranous margins at clasping base, ridged, green but reddish at base especially along ridges and transversely at union with stem; blade of basal leaves ovate in outline, to 210 \times 150 mm, petiolules angled and narrowly channeled, of terminal leaflets 40–50 mm long, of lateral leaflets 3–35 mm long, acute on lower edge, blades of leaflets broadly ovate to roundish or rhombic, 20–70 \times 20–70 mm, typically deeply 3-lobed, truncate to broadly tapered at base, lateral lobes asymmetric with a shallow lateral lobe, terminal leaflet symmetric with 2 lateral lobes, coarsely toothed on margins with a whitish point on each \pm obtuse tooth, pinnately veined with principal veins raised mostly on lower surface; blade of cauline leaves to 120 mm long, 3-foliolate to deeply 3-lobed, petiolules angled and narrowly channeled, blades of leaflets ovate to rhombic, typically deeply 3-lobed, broadly tapered to long-tapered at base, lateral lobes symmetric with a pair of deep sinuses, coarsely serrate on margins with a whitish point on each acute tooth, pinnately veined with principal veins raised mostly on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** compound umbel, terminal and axillary, in widely spaced, leafy, paniclelike arrays, array unbranched or 1-forked, an unbranched axis with 2–7 alternate compound umbels, umbel to 60 mm across, many-flowered, with 7–16 umbellets, umbellet 7–16-flowered, bracteate, glabrous; principal axis of array 5–8-ridged, internodes to 120 mm long; bract subtending peduncle leaflike, 3-foliolate to deeply 3-lobed, < 70 mm long, reduced upward, short-petiolate; peduncle of compound umbel short to 25 mm long increasing 2 \times in fruit, typically 4-sided and 4-ridged; **involucre** absent; primary rays 7–16, spreading to ascending, unequal, at anthesis 3–12 mm long increasing 2 \times in fruit, central primary rays often much shorter, several-ridged; involucre of bractlets subtending pedicels absent; pedicel cylindrical, at anthesis 0–2 mm long increasing 2 \times in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, < 3.5 mm across; **sepals** \pm absent; **petals** 5, spreading, subequal, broadly heart-shaped to ovate or roundish, 0.6–0.7 \times 0.6–0.8 mm, white with greenish midvein but lacking midridge on upper (inner) surface, acuminate at tip but tip curved inward a short distance; **stamens** 5, free; filaments spreading, unequal, 0.3–0.7 mm long, whitish, gradually tapered to tip; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, \pm 0.3 mm long and wide, white or light yellow, longitudinally and sideways dehiscent; pollen white; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior with discoid, nectar-producing platform (stylopodium, stylar tissue) on top, cup-shaped compressed side-to-side, \pm 0.5 mm long, 10-ribbed, glabrous, stylopodium kidney-shaped to \pm pillowlike, covering each half of ovary, pale grayish green, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 ovule; styles 2, free, < 0.6 mm long, slender style projecting from upper edge of the concave inner side of stylopodium; stigmas 2, terminal, minute. **Fruit:** schizocarp, of 2 dry, 1-seeded halves (mericarps), before splitting roundish, $\pm 1.3 \times \pm 1.1 \times$

± 0.7, mericarp ± ellipsoid but flat on common face, dark brown with 5 lighter ribs, pentagonal in ×-section, glabrous. Late May–early September.

Naturalized. An aquatic herb, probably mostly biennial, growing in shallow water and on wet margins of creeks and other standing water throughout the range. *Apium graveolens*, celery, forms a basal rosette during the first year without producing flowers. During the second summer, the plant produces compound umbels of many flowers; the flowers are tiny with five white, essentially equal petals. Mericarps of celery are glabrous and have five ribs without hooks or bumps.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson