

*Chenopodium* L. GOOSEFOOT

*Chenopodium murale* L., NETTLE-LEAVED GOOSEFOOT, SOWBANE. Annual, taprooted, lower branches decumbent, overall erect, 12–60(–100) cm tall; gynomonoecious; shoots initially thickly coated with clear, spheric particles (appearing ± glandular on young growth, drying = farinose), becoming glabrate, not aromatic. **Stems:** somewhat 6–8-ridged and furrowed on young growth, with ridges descending from and especially conspicuous just below each leaf, veins pale green often becoming red-violet on lower stem, farinose, becoming ± glossy below. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole channeled, 5–35(–50) mm, initially farinose, becoming dull to ± glossy; blade ovate or rhombic-ovate to triangular or narrowly lanceolate, 15–75 × 8–55 mm, ± fleshy or not, broadly tapered and unlobed at base, irregularly dentate and short-dentate on margins with 3–14 teeth per edge, acute to acuminate at tip, 3-veined at base and pinnately venation with principal veins raised on lower surface, glabrate but commonly sparsely farinose on lower surface near base. **Inflorescence:** panicle of crowded spikelike clusters (glomes) + some solitary flowers, terminal and axillary, mostly ascending, to 70 mm long, with mostly pistillate flowers, bisexual flowers typically at ends of inflorescence axes, glome with 5–9 nonshowy flowers, densely farinose aging sparsely farinose; bracts absent; glome subspheroid to elongate, 2–4 mm across; bractlets absent. **Bisexual and pistillate flowers:** radial, 1–1.25 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, 0.4–0.75 mm long increasing to 0.9 mm long in fruit, farinose; tube short; lobes equal, deltate to ovate, keeled above midpoint with a dark green fleshy protuberance near tip, membranous and whitish to pale green on margins; **corolla** absent; **stamens** 5 and fertile (bisexual flower) and 0 or 5 minute and vestigial (pistillate flowers); of fertile stamens filaments exerted, ascending to spreading, 0.8–1.3 mm long, translucent or whitish; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ± 0.3 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, horizontal lenticular, 0.5–0.7 mm diameter, green, blistery on surface with crowded, bulbous, fluid-filled, colorless cells, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style whitish aging reddish, 2-branched, conic at base, the base < 0.2 mm long and < 0.15 mm thick, the branches narrower and < 0.2 mm long, becoming reflexed and appressed to base, papillate stigmatic on upper face. **Fruit:** achene, not completely concealed by enveloping calyx lobes, 1-seeded, horizontal, conforming to seed shape, blistery and greenish or yellowish green when fresh drying brown and either smoother and thinner or pointy papillate. **Seed:** lenticular, 1–1.5 mm diameter, dull black to very dark brown, with an equatorial rim and radial groove on top and bottom, densely and minutely granular or slightly cobblestonelike to ± smooth. January–December.

Naturalized. Annual weed occurring throughout the range in disturbed habitats along roadsides and drainage ditches as well as in agricultural fields and gardens. *Chenopodium murale*, which can be found in flower during any month, has leaves that appear somewhat shiny on many but not all specimens. Plants examined within range had both bisexual and pistillate flowers, although typical descriptions mention only bisexual flowers. This is a sparsely farinose plant forming horizontal achenes with seeds that are about 1.5 mm across.

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