

Limonium Miller SEA-LAVENDER, MARSH-ROSEMARY

Limonium perezii (Stapf.) Hubb., SEA-LAVENDER. Perennial herb, evergreen, sclerophyllous, taprooted, rosetted, several-stemmed at base, with ascending to spreading inflorescences, 35–90 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves forming a dense, hemispheric canopy having leaves on short, woody stem (to 150 mm long), glabrous (puberulent in inflorescence) with salt glands on leaves. **Stems:** cylindrical, hidden by overlapping petiole base, to 20 mm diameter. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, long-petiolate, without stipules; petiole \pm cylindrical (somewhat 3-sided most of length), 90–130+ mm long, flared and crescent-shaped in \times -section at reddish orange base; blade ovate, 70–160 \times 48–95 mm, broadly tapered to subtruncate at base, entire and wavy on margins + sparsely short-ciliate, broadly acute to obtuse at tip with midrib extended as point to 4 mm, pinnately veined with midrib conspicuously raised on lower surface, having with salt crystals on surfaces from slightly sunken salt glands. **Inflorescence:** panicle, terminal and scapelike, repeatedly unequally 2-forked producing a hemispheroid array of domed clusters with dense flowers, and terminating in 1-sided, spikelike clusters with sessile spikelets, each spikelet with 3–5 erect, sessile flowers, bracteate; principal axes green and photosynthetic, cylindrical but with 1 ridge, the ridge on some axes purplish red, glabrous or glabrate (lower axes) to puberulent (upper axes); bracts subtending branches 2–3, alternate, tightly appressed, the first bract deltate to acuminate-ovate, to 10 mm long and commonly split so appearing as 2, upper bract \pm lateral, acuminate-ovate, shorter, tough, reddish, ciliate on margins; bract subtending branchlet and bractlet subtending flower appressed or enveloping flower, obovate to ovate, 4.5–5.3 mm long, greenish at base and purplish red on margins and above midpoint, short-ciliate on margins, needlelike and acuminate at tip, puberulent, commonly asymmetric with midrib off-center; pedicels absent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 4–6 mm across, erect to ascending; **calyx** weakly 5–10-lobed, funnel-shaped, 8–8.5 mm long, 5-ribbed; tube green and reddish or red-brown above midpoint and along ribs, flat or concave on upper side, glabrous at base and puberulent above especially along ribs; throat strong violet at base grading to lighter above with 10 purplish red to purple veins (alternately 5 long and 5 short), the longer veins extending to tip of lobes, the short veins mostly $<$ 1 mm long; lobes alternately long and short, broadly to rounded, $<$ 0.5 mm long, the larger lobes terminated by vein extension; **corolla** 5-lobed, white, exceeding calyx 4–5 mm; tube $<$ 0.7 mm long; limb oblanceolate, 12.3–12.7 \times 2–2.4 mm, long-tapered at base, rounded with a minute tooth at tip; **stamens** 5, opposite corolla lobed fused just above base, included; filaments unequal, slender, 8.7–10.3 mm long, white, slightly flattened; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, oblong, 0.9–1.2 mm long, white to pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, inversely conic to urn-shaped, green, with 5 conspicuous ribs terminating in ascending or outwardly pointed tips, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 5, arising from ovary tips, erect, threadlike, erect, 6.6–9 mm long, white; stigma cylindrical, short-papillate 1/3 to tip. **Fruit:** utricle, with persistent calyx, 1-seeded, fruit cylindrical, 4–5 \times 0.8 mm, papery transparent wall, with 5 spreading style base and 5 low ribs. **Seed:** sausage-shaped, ca. 2.5 \times 0.5–0.8 mm, reddish brown or purple-red. Early December–mid-September.

Naturalized. Evergreen perennial herb grown in gardens throughout Southern California, especially in coastal locations, where plants established along roadsides and coastal cliffs. *Limonium perezii* has tough, simple basal leaves, and plants year-round typically have at least new to aged inflorescences pigmented violet on the calyx of the many flowers.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson