

Limonium Miller SEA-LAVENDER, MARSH-ROSEMARY

Limonium sinuatum (L.) Miller, STATICE. Perennial herb, rhizomatous or taprooted (annual), flat-rosetted, several-stemmed at base, acaulous, with erect inflorescences having winged axes, 20–60 cm tall; shoots with only basal leaves, hirsute and with hispid hairs.

Leaves: helically alternate, deeply pinnately lobed with 3–7 rounded lobes per edge, petiolate, without stipules; petiole winged and indistinct from blade, flattened above, sparsely ciliate-hirsute on margins; blade oblanceolate to spatulate, to $170 \times 12\text{--}55$ mm, long-tapered at base, typically hirsute on margins and wavy on margins of terminal lobe, pinnately veined with principal veins somewhat raised on lower surface, \pm soft-hirsute.

Inflorescence: panicle, repeatedly forked, flat-topped and terminating in 1-sided, spikelike clusters having 7–11 sessile spikelets, each spikelet with 3–5 erect, sessile flowers, bracteate, hirsute-hispid; principal axes photosynthetic and 3–4-winged, wings leaflike, 1–3 mm wide, extending above each node as whorled wing extensions, the wing extensions linear, (15–)30–105 mm long on erect axes, shorter on upper branches, sparsely hirsute-hispid; bracts subtending branchlet typically 3, scarious and ciliate on margins; axis approaching spikelets 3(–4)-winged at base, wings 1.5–4 mm wide and continuing beyond base of spike rachis as wing extensions, the central wing extension asymmetrically ovate, 7–10 mm long, constricted at base, acuminate to acute at tip, the lateral extensions awl-shaped, 3–5 mm long; spike rachis 7–10 mm long, tapered, rachis bracts ovate with long reddish awn, colorless but commonly with 1 or 2 green, awl-shaped wing extensions from lower surface of bract; each flower in spikelet subtended by a colorless bractlet + enveloped by a greenish bract (except the lowest one), the colorless bractlet at maturity ca. 9 mm long, asymmetrically 2-toothed, awned, the greenish bractlet thick, colorless on margins, sparsely villous-hirsute, 6-toothed, with 3 rigid green teeth and 3 colorless teeth.

Flower: bisexual, radial, 6–7 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, at morning anthesis cylindrical, 7–8 mm long, by evening funnel-shaped and 10–12 mm long; tube pale green becoming tan and orangey red; upper tube + limb initially light violet, minutely and irregularly toothed, expanding into showy, flaring limb with 5 stiff and 5 low veins, somewhat pleated, irregularly short-dentate on margin, aging scarious; **corolla** 5-lobed, narrowly funnel-shaped, 12–14 mm long; tube < 1 mm long, yellowish; lobes ascending to spreading, oblanceolate, in range translucent-white below to cream or pale pink above calyx, with midvein, typically notched and somewhat cupped at tip; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla tube just above base; filaments unequal, slender, 8–10 mm long, < corolla, translucent-white, slightly flattened; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 1–1.5 mm, creamy white, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen creamy white; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, compressed-obovoid, 1 mm long, greenish white, with 5 indistinct ribs and small bumps, \pm truncate at tip, 1-chambered with 1 ovule pendulous on long stalk; styles 5, arising from rim atop 5 ribs, erect, threadlike, ca. 6.5 mm long, translucent-white; stigmas minute. **Fruit:** achenelike, within persistent calyx, 1-seeded, narrowly lanceoloid, ca. 5 mm long, papery brown, with many low ribs. **Seed:** ellipsoid slightly compressed front-to-back, $3.7\text{--}4.2 \times 1\text{--}1.2$ mm, brown and black and somewhat glossy, often with faint longitudinal ribs. Early March–mid-September.

Naturalized. Perennial herb widely cultivated as an annual for cut flowers and occasionally escaped in range near garden sources, to date in Malibu, Sepulveda Pass, and

near Camarillo (SMM) but expected elsewhere. *Limonium sinuatum* has pinnately lobed basal leaves and conspicuously winged inflorescence axes. The inflorescence is complex with many orders of bracts, and the flowers are produced in dense clusters ("spikes" or spikelets) commonly with a violet corolla but aging scarious and papery. Many color combinations are in cultivation, and variations therefore should be anticipated.

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