

Lobularia Desv.

Lobularia maritima (L.) Desv., SWEET ALYSSUM. Annual or perennial herb, taprooted, several-many-stemmed at base, decumbent to ascending, 10–40 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, strigose with appressed, 2-armed (T-shaped) hairs. **Stems:** shallowly ridged, to 2.5 mm diameter, with 3 ridges descending from each leaf, green to purple. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade linear to narrowly oblanceolate, 10–30(–50) × 1–5 mm, dull, long-tapered at base (petiolelike), entire, acute at tip, inconspicuously pinnately veined with only midrib evident. **Inflorescence:** raceme, terminal, to 150 mm long in fruit, domelike at tip with open flowers overtopping buds, strigose with appressed T-shaped hairs; peduncle and axis ridged, the ridges descending from pedicels; bractlet subtending only the lowest pedicels, leaflike, < 2 mm wide; pedicel ascending, 4–8 mm long, not increasing but spreading in fruit. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, (4–)4.5–5.8 mm across, strongly fragrant like honey; **sepals** 4, elliptic to obovate, 1.4–2 × 0.7–1 mm, green except colorless or rose to purple on narrow, membranous margins, acute at membranous tip, not saclike, outer (lower) surface strigose; **petals** 4, clawed, 2.7–3(–4) × 1.8–2.5 mm; claw ± 0.7 mm long, yellowish green; limb roundish but abruptly tapered to claw, white but yellowish green and palmately veined at limb base; **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic with outer 2 short and inner 4 longer; filaments 0.5–1 mm long (short stamens) and 1.3–1.5 mm long (long stamens), curved toward pistil, greenish, thicker and whitish or pale green at base, tapered and green or purplish toward tip, often aging purple; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 0.4–0.6 mm long, vivid yellow, cordate at base, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen vivid yellow; **nectaries** 8, 1 subtending each long stamen, 2 at base and lateral to each short stamen, ellipsoid, ± 0.2 mm long, dark green; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ± ovoid, 0.4–0.5 mm long, green aging purple at tips and around margins of valves, 2-chambered, each chamber with 1 pendent ovule; style ± 0.4 mm long; stigma capitate, yellowish green, shallowly 2-lobed, papillate. **Fruit:** siliqua (silicle), dehiscent by 2 valves, 2-seeded (1 seed per chamber), compressed ovoid to ellipsoid (obovoid), in range 3.3–4 × 1.7–2.1(–2.5) mm, flattened parallel to septum, valves sparsely pubescent, with a persistent, translucent septum (replum); beak short. **Seed:** roundish to broadly ovate and flattened, 1.2–2 × 0.7–1.5 mm, narrowly and ± crenately winged on side opposite radicle to funiculus, tannish brown. Early September–early June.

Naturalized. Cultivated herb widely planted as a boarder in gardens but occasionally escaping in waste places or along roadsides, where there may be supplemental water.

Lobularia maritima is one of the mustards with T-shaped hairs, having the 2 arms appressed to the leaf and raceme surface. The typical form of *L. maritima* is white-flowered, although purple-flowered cultivars or those with a bluish tint are grown throughout southern California and probably should be anticipated in range.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson