

Spergularia J. Presl & C. Presl SAND-SPURREY

Spergularia villosa (Pers.) Cambess., HAIRY SAND-SPURREY. Perennial herb, many-stemmed at base from branched caudex with a branched, woody taproot, spreading shoots with only 1 lateral branch per node = unexpanded axillary shoot with several leaves and very short internodes, decumbent, to 15 cm tall, branches to 35 cm long; shoots conspicuously glandular-hairy, the stalked hairs spreading, to 0.4 mm long, with small, yellowish heads and thickened at base. **Stems:** ± cylindrical with 2 (opposite) sides slightly flattened, swollen at and just above node, to 1.5 mm wide (internodes) but to 2 mm at nodes, tough, internodes 6–20 mm long, with scattered glandular hairs. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, short-petiolate (often appearing sessile), with stipules; stipules 2 per node, broadly attached to node, acuminate-triangular, in range 4.5–6.5 mm long, scarious, without glandular hairs, persistent and splitting from tip when damaged by axillary growth; petiole indistinct, ± 1 mm long, greenish; blade linear, 10–25 × 0.4–1.2 mm, disclike in ×-section, barely fleshy, entire, acute with short bristle point at tip, 1-veined but venation obscure, dull, with glandular hairs or glabrous (lower leaves). **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme, terminal on main and axillary shoots, 1–4-compound, several–many-flowered typically with a flower between each fork, with several flowers on ultimate branchlet, bracteate, glandular-puberulent; peduncle and branchlet axes to 40 mm long, stemlike, axes swollen at base of internode; bracts subtending forked branches 2 per node, leaflike with stipules, blades lanceolate-linear to narrowly lanceolate, 2–8 × 0.4–0.7 mm and stipules < leaf stipules; bractlet subtending pedicel absent (if 2 axes + pedicel) or present with stipules (upper nodes), often each bractlet stipule deeply 2-lobed, short-dentate or somewhat glandular-hairy on margins; pedicel slender, at anthesis several mm long increasing to 15 mm in fruit, with or without swelling at base, glandular-puberulent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 6 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, conspicuously glandular-puberulent; tube cup-shaped, short; lobes lanceolate and acute at tip, at anthesis 2.5–3 mm long increasing to 4 mm long in fruit, green, unequally membranous on 2 margins, somewhat fleshy and appressed to developing fruit; **petals** 5, ± elliptic, at anthesis 2 mm long increasing to 3 × 2 mm in fruit, < calyx, white, persistent; **stamens** (7–)8–10, free; filaments unequal, 0.7–1.1 mm long increasing 2× in fruit, white, flattened front-to-back, tapered to tip; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ca. 0.35 mm long, yellowish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellowish; **pistil** 1, on a short stalk (carphophore) 0.1 mm long; ovary superior, narrowly ovoid, ± 1.4 × 0.8 mm, green, glabrous, 1-chambered with many ovules attached to a central placenta; style 0.4–0.6 mm long, yellowish green, 3-branched, the branches spreading and papillate for entire length on inner face. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves, many-seeded, narrowly ovoid, 5–5.5 × 2 mm, tip exposed < 1 mm calyx, the valves erect, translucent green drying straw-colored, inconspicuously 1-veined. **Seed:** winged or not within a single fruit, seed plump D-shaped, 0.4–0.5 mm long, dull dark brown, the wing nearly complete to absent on straight edge, 0.15–0.2 mm wide, scarious with radiating lines, often with short teeth between lines. Mid-March–mid-May.

Naturalized. Perennial herb to date known only from a disturbed path next to a building at SMMNRA Circle X Ranch but expected elsewhere. *Spergularia villosa* is covered

glandular hairs, to which soil and other small particles adhere, as well as its own seeds. This is a white-flowered species with at least eight stamens, and the seed is partially or completely surrounded with a transparent, scarious wing.

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