

***Baccharis salicifolia*** (Ruis Lopez & Pavón) Pers. subsp. *salicifolia*, MULE FAT, SEEPWILLOW. Shrub, distinctly woody, many-stemmed at base, branches mostly erect, to 400 cm tall; dioecious; shoots with willowlike foliage (*Salix*), ± glabrous or with scattered, curly hairs and dotted with surface glands, ± sticky resinous or not in canopy, pleasantly fragrant. **Stems:** many-ridged and several-angled, several ridges descending from each leaf, sometimes reddish or purple along ridges, nonglandular hairs absent, becoming resinous. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, mostly short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole 1–10 mm long; blade narrowly lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, 20–175 × 3–28 mm, tapered at base, entire to remotely serrate on margins, acute to acuminate at tip, 3-veined from near base, gland-dotted and ± resinous, sometimes with curly hairs but becoming glabrescent. **Inflorescence:** unisexual heads, in terminal, paniclelike arrays, array 25–150 × 15–70, ± flat-topped, many-headed, head discoid, ca. 6 mm across, with 17–50 staminate flowers or 80–220 pistillate flowers, bracteate; bract subtending array and principal branches leaflike, decreasing upward; bract subtending peduncle narrowly triangular, 2–3 mm long; peduncle 1–10 mm long increasing in fruit, sometimes with 1 or 2 bracts subtending head; **involucre** bell-shaped to hemispheric, 3–6 mm long, at anthesis 4–5 mm wide (staminate head) and 3–4.3 mm wide (pistillate head), phyllaries 45–50 in 5–7 series with inner series hidden (staminate head) or 20–25 in 4–5 graded series (pistillate head), deltate or broadly ovate to narrowly lanceolate, 1.5–4.5 × 0.4–2 mm, outer phyllaries the shortest and broadest, the innermost phyllaries the narrowest but slightly < middle phyllaries, white-membranous but light green at base and along midvein becoming reddish approaching tip, jagged-fringed on margins base-to-tip (outer phyllaries) and entire but jagged-fringed only at tip (the innermost phyllaries); receptacle slightly conic and < 2 mm diameter (staminate head) or flat and 2.5–3 mm diameter (pistillate head), without bractlets (paleae), pitted with membranous crown around each ovary. **Functionally staminate flower:** appearing bisexual (stigma and style present), radial, to 2.5 mm across, purplish red-tipped in bud; **calyx (pappus)** of 20–25 capillary bristles in 1 whorl, 4–4.5 mm long (≈ top of corolla throat), white; **corolla** 5-lobed, trumpet-shaped (salverform), 4–5.5 mm long; tube 2.5–4 mm long, light green to whitish; throat 0.5–1 mm long, short-glandular to long-hairy at base; lobes often strongly recurved, lanceolate, white with purplish red at tip; **stamens** 5, fused to top of corolla tube; filaments 0.7–1 mm long, white; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, fully exerted, basifixed, dithecal, 1.5–1.8 mm long, pale yellow, with sterile appendage 0.3–0.5 mm long at tip, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, aborted, inversely conic, green; style 4–5 mm long, whitish, 2-branched, the stigmatic branches exerted, suberect, lanceolate, 1–1.3 mm long, sometimes purplish at tips, thickish and conspicuously papillate. **Pistillate flower:** structurally unisexual, ± radial, ca. 0.25 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 15–26 capillary bristles in 1 whorl, 2.5–5 mm long, white; **corolla** minutely and irregularly lobed, narrowly cylindrical, in range 2.5–3.3 mm long, whitish or pale greenish, with irregular, oblique and appressed hairs at orifice; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly inversely conic, 0.7–1.2 mm long, whitish to light tan or yellowish green, with numerous short glandular hairs, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style slender, 3–4.6 mm long, 2-branched, the branches ascending, 0.5–0.7 mm long, light brownish to dark reddish purple, inconspicuously papillate. **Fruits:** cypselae, narrowly cylindrical, ± 1.2 × 0.2–0.3 mm, dark tan to brown, bulbous and pale yellow-brown at base,

5-ribbed, ribs whitish or pale yellowish brown; pappus of 15–26 capillary bristles, 2.5–5 mm long, sometimes increasing somewhat in fruit, white (brownish), glabrous or with short, viscid glandular hairs. January–December.

Native. Shrub occurring throughout the range, especially in habitats where soil remains water-soaked or moist along bodies of water and in drainages, but having populations in most plant communities, even bordering salt marsh and to be expected anywhere in disturbed habitats. *Baccharis salicifolia* formerly was called *B. glutinosa*, referring to the fragrant, resin-coated, willowlike leaves. Flowering is chiefly during late summer through early spring, but individuals with flowers can be found in any month. Although staminate and pistillate heads have pappus, with a hand lens the sex of each plant can be easily determined in that a pistillate flower has a very slender corolla and an exserted style whereas a staminate flower has anthers and bushy stigmas, which are conspicuous.  
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