

*Cakile edentula* (Bigel.) Hooker var. *edentula*, AMERICAN SEA ROCKET, CALIFORNIA SEA ROCKET. Annual, ± fleshy, taprooted, briefly rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, branched throughout, decumbent to erect, not forming dense mounds, 10–50+ cm tall; shoots when flowering with only cauline leaves, glabrous. **Stems:** ± cylindric, with a low, broad ridge descending from each leaf. **Leaves:** helically alternate, toothed to shallowly pinnately lobed, petiolate to sessile, without stipules; petiole to 10 mm long; blade oblanceolate to narrowly lanceolate or elliptic-lanceolate, 20–60 × 10–15 mm, long-tapered to tapered at base, wavy serrate (shallowly lobed) to crenate or subentire on margins, acute at tip, pinnately veined. **Inflorescence:** raceme or panicle of several racemes, terminal often forked with vegetative shoot, to 150 mm long, raceme 10+-flowered, ± flat-topped with open flowers approximately at level of buds, lacking bracts glabrous; pedicel ascending, at anthesis 1.5–3 mm long increasing to 3–7 mm long in fruit, hard and persistent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 5 mm across; **sepals** 4, ± equal, not pouchlike at base, linear-oblong, 3.5–5 mm long, green, occasionally sparsely hairy near tip; **petals** 4 and not clawed or reduced to bristles or 0, when present obovate, (4.5–)6–8 mm long, greenish white and tapered to base, expanded portion purplish to white; **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic with outer 2 short and inner 4 longer; filaments ca. 2.5 mm long (short stamens) and ca. 3 mm long (long stamens), greenish white; anthers ± basifixed, dithecal, of long stamens slightly overtopping stigma, of short stamens at level of stigma, pale yellow to yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow to yellow; **nectaries** 4 in 2 sets, fleshy, green, the 2 subtended by short stamens ca. 0.3 mm long, the 2 subtended by pairs of long stamens larger and cushion-shaped; **pistil** 1, ca. 3 mm long, glabrous; ovary superior, transversely 2-parted, lower part ± cylindric, defined by constriction, upper part longer and grading into a short style, green, with 2 narrow chambers having thick walls, with 2 ovules; stigma depressed, papillate. **Fruit:** siliqua, indehiscent but splitting transversely into 2 unequal, 1-seeded segments, falsely 1-chambered, upper segment inversely top-shaped and 4-angled, 12–24 × 5–9 mm, with short blunt to flat beak, lower segment 4-angled wedge-shaped, 5–10 × 3 mm, segments fleshy becoming dry and hard; lower segment persistent, drying and becoming woody. Summer.

Native (locally extinct). Fleshy annual recorded during the last century in sand dunes from Point Mugu to Point Dume but not observed in recent decades, although occurring commonly in northern California. *Cakile edentula* var. *edentula* formerly was also known as *C. americana* and *C. californica*, and it has been treated as belonging to a subspecies with two varieties. Formally this annual was present all along the California coastline, but it has been replaced by the perennial *C. maritima*, which commonly fills a similar dune niche. Flowers of *C. edentula* are much smaller petals that are nearly white, and elsewhere along the Pacific coastline petals are aborted or reduced instead to bristles.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson