

*Cakile maritima* Scop. Annual to short-lived perennial herb, ± fleshy, taprooted, rosetted, several–many-stemmed at base, branched throughout, prostrate to sprawling and often forming dense mounds (± erect), typically < 40 cm tall; shoots when flowering with only cauline leaves, glabrous. **Stems:** ± cylindric, 1.5–4.5 mm diameter, with a low, broad ridge descending from each leaf, typically with purple band or swelling at base of each lateral branch. **Leaves:** helically alternate, deeply pinnately lobed with 1–8 opposite or alternate lateral lobes or unlobed (rarely), petiolate, without stipules; petiole 15–30 mm long, as wide as lower rachis, defined by a transverse crease at base; blade oblanceolate or obovate to oblong or elliptic in outline, 25–80 × 15–45 mm, rachis 2.5–4 mm wide, terminal lobe ± oblong, 8–30 × 2.5–9 mm, often somewhat fleshy, entire or toothed, lateral lobes oblong or oblanceolate to obovate or spatulate, 2–24 × 2–4.5 mm, rounded at tip, often with lobe oriented toward tip resulting from a slight fold at base of sinus. **Inflorescence:** raceme or panicle of racemes, terminal, 200–400 mm long, raceme 15–60-flowered, ± flat-topped with open flowers approximately at level of buds, glabrous; bractlet subtending pedicel absent; pedicel ascending to spreading, 2–3.5 mm long increasing to 2× in fruit, persistent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 9–15 mm across; **sepals** 4, ± equal but 2 (opposite short stamens) slightly pouchlike at base and broader than other 2, linear-oblong, 4–5.5 × 1.4–2.2 mm, green (sometimes with pink bases), occasionally sparsely hairy near tip; **petals** 4, clawed, 8–14 mm long; claw 2.5–6 mm long, greenish white, tapered to base; limb obovate, 1.8–4(–6) mm wide, light purple to lavender (white, deep purple), flat to cupped, reflexed at base; **stamens** 6, free, dimorphic with outer 2 short and inner 4 longer; filaments 3.2–5.2 mm long (short stamens) and 4.5–6.1 mm long (long stamens), greenish white; anthers ± basifixed, dithecal, of long stamens slightly overtopping stigma, 1.8–2 × 0.9 mm, pale yellow to yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow to yellow; **nectaries** 4 in 2 sets of 2, fleshy, green, the 2 subtended by short stamens ovate, ca. 0.5 mm long, the 2 subtended by pairs of long stamens cushion-shaped; **pistil** 1, lanceoloid, 4–6 mm long, glabrous; ovary superior, transversely 2-parted, lower part ± cylindric expanding into upper part, upper part long-elliptic, ± 4-angled and swollen at base, grading into a flat, fleshy-winged style, green, with 2 narrow chambers having thick walls, with 2 ovules; stigma hemispheric, papillate. **Fruit:** siliqua, indehiscent but splitting transversely into 2 unequal, 1-seeded segments, falsely 1-chambered; upper segment inversely urn-shaped to ± spheroid, 8–16 mm long, with 2 ribbed sutures, fleshy becoming dry and hard; lower segment persistent, tuberclelike, drying and becoming woody. **Seed:** ellipsoid, ca. 3–4 × 2 mm, yellowish. January–December.

Naturalized. Fleshy perennial herb fully naturalized in range as a colonizer and stabilizer of coastal sand dunes. *Cakile maritima* is native to Europe, and became dominant on beaches of southern California in the twentieth century. In northern California another species of sea rocket, *C. edentula*, commonly fills a similar dune niche, and that species occurred here locally before the introduction of *C. maritima*. In our range, these coastal plants may form their light purple flowers potentially any day of the year.

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