

Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia (Spreng.) W. L. Wagner & Hoch subsp. *suffruticosa* (S. Watson) W. L. Wagner & Hoch, BEACH EVENING PRIMROSE. Subshrub, initially and on new basal shoots rosetted, several-stemmed at base, with radiating prostrate branches to decumbent, < 60 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves + unexpanded axillary shoots with tufts of immature leaves on unexpanded shoots, silvery white, ± feltlike, densely strigose and short-strigose with upward-pointing hairs. **Stems:** cylindrical, < 5 mm diameter, light green often turning red, older stems with tannish and peeling periderm. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate and sessile, without stipules; petiole 3.5–14 mm long (rosette leaves) and 0–2 mm long (cauline leaves), densely white-hairy; blade of rosette leaves narrowly obovate to oblanceolate, 30–34(–50) × 8.5–22 mm, long-tapered at base, sparsely and minutely serrate on margins, obtuse to rounded at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface; blade of cauline leaves narrowly obovate or elliptic to lanceolate or broadly ovate, 5–20 × 2.5–7 mm, broadly tapered to cordate at base, entire or sparsely and minutely serrate on margins, obtuse or broadly acute to rounded at tip, pinnately veined with midrib slightly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** leafy spike of axillary flowers, sometimes arising with an unexpanded axillary shoot at base; bractlet leaflike, sessile and clasping, broadly ovate, entire and wavy on margins, silvery white and densely strigose. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 22–33 mm across, dish-shaped, to 27 mm long; diurnal; hypanthium above ovary, inversely narrowly conic, 2.7–6(–8.5) mm long, yellowish green, covered with dense white hairs and some glandular hairs, internally with scattered short hairs, **nectary** a base of hypanthium surrounding style base, moundlike and somewhat 4-lobed, yellowish green, with nectar collecting in base of hypanthium; **sepals** free or partially fused at tips as pairs when they split from pressure of expanding petals along suture lines, reflexed, individually narrowly triangular, 6–11.5 mm long (pairs lanceolate), pubescent, inner surface glabrous, often red-tinged, parallel-veined; **petals** 4, horizontally spreading, not clawed, fan-shaped, 10–20 × 9.5–17 mm, vivid yellow sometimes with 1 or 2 reddish spots or several minute reddish dots at base, aging reddish orange, lower surface sparsely strigose at base; **stamens** 8 in 1 series, bases thinly fused in ring arising from hypanthium rim, dimorphic; filaments ascending to erect, unequal, 5–8.5 mm long (opposite sepals) and 3–6 mm long (opposite petals), yellow, glabrous; anthers exerted, off-center versatile, dithecal, 2.2–3 mm long, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent becoming twisted; pollen yellow, held in a mass by minute threads (viscin threads); **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, 4-sided with flat sides (concealed by pubescence), to 16 mm long, thicker and slightly curved at base, densely strigose with upward-pointing hairs, 4-chambered, each chamber with many ovules; style exerted 1 mm+ above anthers, cylindrical, 13–20(–23) mm long, yellow, with scattered short hairs to midpoint; stigma capitate, ca. 1.4 mm diameter, yellow, papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 4 valves, many-seeded, strongly 4-angled, 14–20 × 2.5–3.5 mm, often square in ×-section below midpoint, tapered to tip, curved and sometimes becoming 1-coiled or partially 2-coiled. **Seed:** ± teardrop-shaped, 0.9–1.3 × 0.5–0.7 mm, dull brownish black, cells shallowly sunken in lengthwise files. Early November–mid-September.

Native. Perennial herb common along the coastline on stabilized dunes, where it grows in bright sun but generally not exposed to salt spray. *Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia* subsp.

suffruticosa, formerly treated as a species of *Camissonia*, grows in the strand community in shifting sand with *Abronia umbellata*, *Ambrosia chamissonis*, *Cakile maritima*, *Calystegia soldanella*, and *Croton californica*, but also its local distribution extends into openings in coastal bluff scrub or along beach roads. Like the beach ragweed *A. chamissonis*, the leaves are silvery because they are densely covered with reflective hairs. Flowers of beach evening primrose are diurnal and bright yellow, sometimes greater than thirty millimeters across, and so this plant is easily spotted from a distance.

Records suggest that *C. cheiranthifolia* subsp. *cheiranthifolia* should also occur in range. These plants, with shorter petals, hypanthium, and anthers, all characteristics for that subspecies, have been studied, but in these cases the style is also comparatively long, so that the stigma lobes are clearly elevated above the anthers (also on long filaments), a distinguishing feature of subsp. *suffruticosa*. Overall, characters suggest such plants are of intermediate condition, i.e., some plants occurring in range may be progeny of hybrid origin.

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