

*Jaumea carnosa* (Less.) A. Gray, SALTY SUSAN. Perennial herb, halophytic, evergreen, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, several-stemmed at base, creeping with decumbent to ascending shoots, 8–35 cm tall; shoots with fleshy cauline leaves, glabrous; rhizomes woody, often > 10 mm diameter; adventitious roots formed at nodes along prostrate stems. **Stems:** cylindric, young stems < 2.5 mm diameter, internodes to 50 mm long. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile with bases fused across node and shed as pairs leaving persistent, tan-membranous bases, with fusion line and border of leaf bases commonly purple-red, without stipules; blade  $\pm$  linear to narrowly oblanceolate, 15–61  $\times$  2–6 mm, to 2 mm thick, green, entire, acute and often short-pointed at tip, midrib only visible and flush with lower surface, glaucous, with minute dots. **Inflorescence:** heads, solitary and terminal, head radiate, 8–15 mm across, with 7–10(–12) ray flowers (rarely several flowers inconspicuously 2-lipped) and (20–)35–50 disc flowers, bracteate, often with 1 or 2 new shoots arising at base of peduncle; peduncle several–60 mm long, 1.5 mm diameter for most of length then flaring at head, slightly compressed, glaucous, hollow; bracts subtending head 2 (calyculus), opposite, appressed, broadly ovate, 4–5 mm long, greenish with reddish margins, fused at base, sometimes notched at tip; **involucre** bell-shaped becoming  $\pm$  urn-shaped or ovoid in fruit, ca. 10 mm long, glaucous, phyllaries 12–15, appressed and overlapping in several graded series, outer phyllaries triangular to broadly ovate, 2.5–5 mm long, green with reddish margins, inner phyllaries ovate or narrowly oblanceolate, green with margins red-purple to green having rose to yellowish tip; receptacle hemi-ellipsoid, 3–3.5  $\times$  2.5–3 mm, without bractlets (paleae). **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, ca. 1.5 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** absent; **corolla** 2–3-toothed; tube cylindric, 3.2–3.5 mm long, pale yellow; limb spreading, oblanceolate, 3–5  $\times$  1–1.5 mm, bright yellow, toothed at tip; if 2-lipped, second (inside) lip linear, to 2 mm long; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, cylindric,  $\pm$  2.5 mm long, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style ca. 6.5 mm long, glabrous, 2-branched, the branches subequal, 0.7–0.9 mm long, minutely papillate-hairy. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, 1 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** absent or inconspicuous with 1–5 short bristles < 0.3 mm long; **corolla** 5-lobed, < 7 mm long; tube cylindric,  $\pm$  2.5  $\times$  < 0.7 mm; pale yellow; throat 2.5–2.7 mm long, to ca. 1 mm diameter, yellow; lobes erect, < 1 mm long, bright yellow becoming tinged with maroon; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla at base of throat, typically not exerted; filaments short; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, basifixed, dithecal, ca. 2 mm long, yellow tinged with maroon, rounded at base, short-pointed, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, cylindric, 2–3 mm long, whitish, with faint ribs, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, 6–7.5 mm long, yellow, 2-branched, the branches spreading, subequal, 0.7–0.9 mm long, minutely papillate-hairy. **Fruits:** cypselae, dimorphic, glabrous; of ray flowers oblong compressed front-to-back and cupped inward, 2.5  $\times$  1 mm, somewhat glossy and gray, 10-veined, ribbed on inner faces; of disc flowers  $\pm$  straight-columnar, 2.5–3 mm long, somewhat glossy and dark gray-brown, angular, 10-ribbed, with oblique attachment scar; pappus absent or indistinct as 1–5 minute bristles. Late May–mid-December.

Native. Perennial herb restricted to the zone of coastal salt marsh where the mud is constantly wet. Dense mats of *Jaumea* may be totally covered with salt water at high tide, where it grows with *Frankenia salina* and *Distichlis spicata*. Although often described as

succulent, *J. carnos*a technically is best classified as fleshy, with glaucous, opposite leaves. The head bears the bright yellow disc flowers on a domelike receptacle, so that eventually the central flowers extend further than the outer ones. Most fruits lack pappus, and only at 30× can the minute pappus of a central disc flower be observed.

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