

*Limonium perezii* (Stapf.) Hubb., SEA-LAVENDER. Perennial herb, evergreen, sclerophyllous, taprooted, rosetted, several-stemmed at base, with ascending to spreading inflorescences, 35–90 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves forming a dense, hemispheric canopy having leaves on short, woody stem (to 150 mm long), glabrous (puberulent in inflorescence) with salt glands on leaves. **Stems:** cylindric, hidden by overlapping petiole base, to 20 mm diameter. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, long-petiolate, without stipules; petiole ± cylindric (somewhat 3-sided most of length), 90–130+ mm long, flared and in ×-section crescent-shaped at reddish orange base; blade ovate, 70–160 × 48–95 mm, broadly tapered to subtruncate at base, entire and wavy on margins + sparsely short-ciliate, broadly acute to obtuse at tip with midrib extended as point to 4 mm, pinnately veined with midrib conspicuously raised on lower surface, having salt crystals on surfaces from slightly sunken salt glands. **Inflorescence:** panicle, terminal and scapelike, repeatedly unequally 2-forked producing a hemispheroid array of domed clusters with dense flowers, and terminating in 1-sided, spikelike clusters with sessile spikelets, each spikelet with 3–5 erect, sessile flowers, bracteate; principal axes green and photosynthetic, cylindric but with 1 ridge, the ridge on some axes purplish red, glabrous or glabrate (lower axes) to puberulent (upper axes); bracts subtending branches 2–3, alternate, tightly appressed, the first bract deltate to acuminate-ovate, to 10 mm long and commonly split so appearing as 2, upper bract ± lateral, acuminate-ovate, shorter, tough, reddish, ciliate on margins; bract subtending branchlet and bractlet subtending flower appressed or enveloping flower, obovate to ovate, 4.5–5.3 mm long, greenish at base and purplish red on margins and above midpoint, short-ciliate on margins, needlelike and acuminate at tip, puberulent, commonly asymmetric with midvein off-center; pedicels absent. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 4–6 mm across, erect to ascending; **calyx** weakly 5–10-lobed, funnel-shaped, 8–8.5 mm long, 5-ribbed; tube green and reddish or red-brown above midpoint and along ribs, flat or concave on upper (inner) surface, glabrous at base and puberulent above especially along ribs; throat strong violet at base grading to lighter above with 10 purplish red to purple veins (alternately 5 long and 5 short), the longer veins extending to tip of lobes, the short veins mostly < 1 mm long; lobes alternately long and short, broadly acute to rounded, < 0.5 mm long, the larger lobes terminated by vein extension; **corolla** 5-lobed, white, exceeding calyx 4–5 mm; tube < 0.7 mm long; limb oblanceolate, 12.3–12.7 × 2–2.4 mm, long-tapered at base, rounded with a minute tooth at tip; **stamens** 5, opposite corolla lobed fused just above base, included; filaments unequal, slender, 8.7–10.3 mm long, white, slightly flattened; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, oblong, 0.9–1.2 mm long, white to pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, inversely conic to urn-shaped, green, with 5 conspicuous ribs terminating in ascending or outwardly pointed tips, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 5, arising from ovary tips, erect, threadlike, erect, 6.6–9 mm long, white; stigma cylindric, short-papillate 1/3 to tip. **Fruit:** achenelike (utricle), with persistent calyx, 1-seeded, cylindric, 4–5 × 0.8 mm, wall papery transparent, with 5 spreading style base and 5 low ribs. **Seed:** sausage-shaped, ca. 2.5 × 0.5–0.8 mm, reddish brown or purple-red. Early December–mid-September.

Naturalized. Evergreen perennial herb grown in gardens throughout Southern California, especially in coastal locations, where plants established along roadsides and coastal cliffs. *Limonium perezii* has tough, simple basal leaves, and plants year-round typically have at

least new to aged inflorescences pigmented violet on the calyx of the many flowers. There are numerous cultivars, including interspecific hybrids, which may not exactly fit the above description.

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