

***Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*** L., SLENDER-LEAVED ICEPLANT. Annual, halophytic, fleshy, taprooted, several-stemmed at base, prostrate and trailing, branching unequally forked, forming dense mats, 3–8(–20) cm tall; shoots with leaves covered with conspicuous, water-storing epidermal cells hemispheric to hemi-sausagelike (vesicles). **Stems:** cylindrical, to 3.5 mm diameter on young and turgid stems, with collapsed and broken vesicles on old stems, internodes short and typically < 20 mm long. **Leaves:** opposite decussate at basal nodes and thereafter helically alternate, simple, sessile, pairs never fused across node, without stipules; blade fleshy, subcylindric with flattened upper surface, linear, 5–29 × 1.5–3.5 mm, with some long papillate hairs on margins at base, rounded at tip, green aging magenta or blushed pink. **Inflorescence:** leafy cyme, terminal and axillary, bracteate; bract subtending cyme and each branchlet = cauline leaf; pedicel short. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 9–13 mm across; hypanthium collarlike, ca. 1.5 mm long, yellowish green; **sepals** 5, erect, unequal, 3.5–8 mm long increasing in fruit, fleshy, green, narrowly hemi-cylindric and expanded at base with a low conic projection, of the longer 1 or 2 sepals having milky, papillate hairs on basal margins, of the intermediate 1 or 2 sepals having papillate hairs on 1 side and a membranous wing on other margin, of the shorter 1 or 2 sepals having ovate membranous wing on both margins; **petals** 20, arising from upper hypanthium, fused at base, unequal, linear, 4–9 × 0.3–0.8 mm, white with greenish base; petaloid staminodes 15, pale yellow; **stamens** 15; filaments unequal, 2.5–5 mm long, yellowish; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, ± arrow-shaped, 1.5–2 mm long, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, sunken in receptacle tissue, 5-chambered, each chamber with many ovules attached to outer wall; styles 5, ± 3 mm long, tapered to tip; stigmatic region along upper 1/3 of each style. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, many-seeded, domelike, ca. 5 mm across, 5-valved, dehiscent downward, the valves triangular and covering 2 arching keels, when wetted interior keels expand to expose and release some seeds from chambers (hydrochastic), when dry again keels contract to conceal remaining seeds. **Seed:** D-shaped, 0.4–0.5 mm wide, reddish brown, minutely bumpy. Late March–early December.

Naturalized. A small-leaved, fleshy annual of coastal situations, especially on the edge of salt marsh, e.g., at Point Mugu, but seldom observed in range. *Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum* has shoots covered with bulging, watery cells (vesicles). Flowers of this species are about half the diameter of the other species, with which it may co-occur.

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