

Paspalum vaginatum L., SEASHORE PASPALUM. Perennial herb, clonal, rhizomatous, stolon-bearing, fibrous-rooted freely forming adventitious roots at nodes on horizontal stems, several-stemmed at rooted node, creeping, decumbent to erect, in range 10–25(–80) cm tall, spreading to 100 cm; shoots with bladeless leaves along stolons and cauline leaves on flowering shoots, essentially glabrous. **Stems (culms):** elliptic in \times -section, internodes 25–77 mm long, glabrous at nodes; internodes hollow (lower nodes) and solid (lower nodes). **Leaves:** alternate distichous, simple with sheath; sheath open, 28–60 mm long, somewhat ridged approaching blade, glabrous, without lobes (auricles) at top; ligule membranous, truncate to obtuse, in range 0.8–1.5 mm long; blade linear, in range 25–130 \times 2–3.5 mm, the widest at the base, generally flat to folded (conduplicate), entire, parallel-veined with midrib conspicuous only approaching base, mostly glabrous but on upper surface near ligule having several pilose hairs to 3 mm long. **Inflorescence:** spikelets, in terminal panicles, panicle with 2(–3) spikelike branches, branches paired at end of culm, erect to widely spreading or reflexed, in range 26–45 mm long, with 13–32 spikelets restricted to lower side, generally forming 2 rows of fertile spikelets separated by edge of rachis (rudimentary spikelets paired with fertile spikelets, sterile on basal 4–7 mm, having a single terminal spikelet, spikelet with 2 florets with lower one sterile and upper one fertile, minutely scabrous on each midvein, glabrous at nodes, lacking awns and bristle tips; rachis with a 3-sided midrib having a wing from each angle on the upper (adaxial) side forming a flat surface in range 0.7–0.9 mm wide, green with semi-translucent margins, irregularly scabrous on margins, ribbed with 10–15 fiber bundles; stalk of spikelet < 0.4 mm long, pubescent with ascending straight hairs. **Spikelet:** appressed to rachis, lanceolate to narrowly ovate compressed top-to-bottom, in range 2.3–3 \times 1.1–1.4 mm, acute to acuminate at tip, breaking below the glumes; **glumes** 1(–2), unequal, lower glume (absent) short-deltate, 0.6 \times 0.2 mm, upper glume (hidden side) = spikelet size and shape, papery, pale to light green, with 4 or 5 veins (midvein obscure or absent), 2 marginal and 2 submarginal veins green, having slightly inrolled margins narrowly overlapping lower lemma below midpoint, glabrous; **lemma** (sterile floret) = upper glume, flat with acute tip and covering upper (distal) portion of fertile floret, 3-veined with green veins, glabrous; lemma (fertile floret) elliptic, 1.9–2.3 \times 0.8–1.2 mm, firmer than sterile lemma, with margins inrolled from base to tip and narrowly clasping palea, light green becoming whitish in fruit with 3–5 green veins, finely textured with longitudinal veins and fine pits between veins, glabrous; **palea** (sterile floret) absent; palea (fertile floret) elliptic, slightly shorter or longer than lemma, 2-veined. **Flower:** bisexual; **perianth (lodicules)** 2, obtetrahedral, ca. 0.25 \times 0.4 mm, fleshy, swollen at anthesis becoming \pm concave on upper face, \pm wavy on upper edges; **stamens** 3, free; filaments finely threadlike, ca. 3 mm long, white; anthers exserted, versatile, dithecal, 1.3–1.5 mm long, purplish red to burgundy, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid to obovoid, 0.4–0.5 \times 0.25 mm, yellowish, glabrous, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2, bottlebrushlike, at anthesis ca. 1.5 mm long, whitish or translucent; stigmas exserted between lemma and palea ca. 1/4 from tip, with stigmatic hairs above midpoint, ca. 0.3 mm in diameter, dark burgundy. **Fruit:** achene (caryopsis), not observed in range, ellipsoid to slightly obovoid, 2.8–3.1 mm long, yellow ochre. Summer.

Naturalized. Perennial herb forming large clones in brackish water of Malibu Lagoon, on both side of the inlet. *Paspalum vaginatum* flowers readily during summer months, but no fertile or developing fruits were observed. Other descriptions state that the lemma has only three veins, but four and five veins were observed in range. Plants of this species are very similar to *P. notatum* (bahiagrass), which has cultivars that are used for turfgrass, and probably should be expected in range along water channels to the ocean, where clumps hve washed down from homes during storms.

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