

Rumex conglomeratus Murray, CLUSTERED DOCK. Perennial herb, taprooted, rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, erect with ascending flowering branches, (35–)50–180 cm tall; shoots initially with basal rosette but basal leaves mostly withered by flowering, glabrous; taproot vertical, thick. **Stems:** broadly ridged base to canopy, 3–8 mm diameter, with ridge descending from each leaf, green aging pink to rose-red, internode 65–250 mm long, node \pm swollen. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules (2) fused to form a sheath (ocrea) above node and fused to upper side of oblique petiole, thinly membranous, to 60 mm long (on side opposite petiole) and longer adjacent to petiole, with 7–11 \pm parallel veins, brownish, fragile and splitting lengthwise between veins by adjacent stem growth, deciduous or partially persistent; petiole hemi-cylindric, to 400 mm long, the longest lower cauline leaves, decreasing upward from lower cauline leaves, ridged, tough and flexible; blades of cauline leaves oblong-lanceolate or obovate-lanceolate to lanceolate or elliptic, 50–290 \times 26–90 mm, tapered to rounded or truncate to subcordate at base, entire and flat to weakly wavy on margins, acute to obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on upper surface and principal veins raised on lower surface, minutely papillate. **Inflorescence:** panicle of racemes, terminal, open, \pm erect, 40–650 \times 70–280 mm, with 10–20 lateral branches spaced to 75 mm apart along main axis, larger laterals branching again, raceme 10–80(–350) mm long, having alternate clusters of 4–20(–30) flowers (fascicles) that encircle axis, bracteate, glabrous; axes ridged, internodes between fascicles at anthesis 1.5–10 mm long increasing 2–3 \times in fruit; bract with ocrea subtending lateral branch and each fascicle, leaflike, greatly decreasing upward; pedicel curved outward, at anthesis 1–2 mm long increasing to 4 mm long in fruit, having a swelling ca. 1/3 from base at which abscission can occur. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, at anthesis ca. 1.5 mm wide, protandrous; **perianth** 6-lobed, dimorphic in 2 distinct whorls, green; perianth tube \pm cup-shaped, 0.3–0.8 mm long, 3-sided in \times -section; outer whorl (sepals) 3, ascending, ovate to oblong, 0.6–1 mm long, green; inner whorl (petals) 3, at anthesis obovate to oblong-oblancheolate, 1–2 \times 0.7–1 mm increasing in fruit, green, entire, rounded at tip, with midvein 1/2–2/3 enlarging into callus (tubercle); **stamens** 6, arising from rim of perianth tube; filaments < 0.5 mm long, whitish to colorless; anthers basifixed, dithecal, oblong, in range 0.6–1 \times 0.3–0.4 mm, light creamy yellow to orangey brown, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light creamy yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, obovoid, strongly 3-angled, light green, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 3, widely spreading becoming reflexed and appressed on angle of developing fruit, ca. 0.4 mm long, with brushlike stigma, 0.2–0.4 mm long, light yellow aging with orange tinge. **Fruit:** achene, enclosed within perianth (diclesium); lobes of outer whorl dry, persistent, similar in size and shape as when in flower, lobes of inner whorl enlarged, oblong-lanceolate to oblong or tongue-shaped, 2–3 \times 1–1.6 mm each with conspicuous tubercle, entire, obtuse at tip, dark coppery or reddish brown; tubercle to midpoint of lobe in fruit, equal to subequal, the largest nearly as wide as inner lobe width, dark reddish brown, minutely netlike-pitted; achene ovoid and strongly 3-angled, 1.5–1.8 \times 1–1.4 mm, glossy dark reddish brown. Late May–early October.

Naturalized. Perennial herb occurring throughout the range along creeks and ponds and in drainage ditches and depressions where water collects during the rainy season and soil remains moist during summer months. *Rumex conglomeratus* is a tall herb that starts

during springtime with a sizable basal rosette, but basal leaves wither and die entering summer flowering. Sometimes *R. conglomeatus* grows in dense stands with other dock species, in sunny locations, e.g., SMMNRA Peter Strauss Ranch creekside, to shady riparian woodland. This species produces fruits having three well-developed tubercles on the inner whorl of the perianth and the lobes are entire.

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