

Rumex pulcher L, FIDDLE DOCK. Annual (biennial herb), taprooted, rosetted, 1-stemmed at base, unbranched below inflorescence, ascending to erect, to 120 cm tall; shoots with basal leaves and cauline leaves, glabrous; taproot branched or not, bark purplish. **Stems:** cylindric at base of plant and ridged above, with ridge descending from each cauline leaf, green aging pink to rose-red, with long internodes spacing cauline leaves, slightly but noticeably bent at each node; node \pm swollen. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, with stipules; stipules (2) fused into cylinder sheathing stem (ocrea), pink-membranous, eventually splitting lengthwise; petiole hemi-cylindric and ridged, < 120 mm long, flexible; blade lanceolate to elliptic, 70–200 \times < 60 mm (basal leaves) decreasing upward, subcordate to truncate at base, entire or crenate and minutely wavy on margins, acute at tip (acute to obtuse for upper cauline leaves), pinnately veined with midrib conspicuously raised on lower surface, bluish green and fine-glittery or crystalline, upper surface senescing dull yellow, lower surface papillate along veins. **Inflorescence:** panicle of racemes, terminal, open, \pm erect to ascending, with several lateral branches widely spaced along main axis, raceme interrupted having alternate clusters of many flowers (fascicles) that encircle axis, bracteate, glabrous; axes ridged; bract with ocrea subtending lateral branch and each fascicle, leaflike, greatly decreasing upward, later often abscised so appearing to be only ocreas; pedicel curved outward, at anthesis short long increasing to 6 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, lobes (tepals) in 2 different whorls; tube cup-shaped, 1 mm long, green; lobes of outer whorl (calyx) awl-shaped, ca. 1.5 mm long, lobes of inner whorl (corolla) oblong-obovate and cupped, ca. 2 mm long, lobes green with white margins, initially entire aging toothed, midvein below midpoint initially slightly raised later becoming enlarged (tubercle); **stamens** 6, arising on rim of perianth tube; filaments < 0.4 mm long, whitish; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 1–1.2 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, obovoid and strongly 3-angled, whitish, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 3, extremely short with minute stigmas. **Fruit:** achene enclosed by persistent, dry perianth (diclesium) with persistent pedicel; lobes of outer perianth whole narrowly acuminate, 1.5–2.5 mm long, lobes of inner whole \pm deltate-ovate, 4 mm long, each inner lobe with a conspicuous tubercle (callus), conspicuously veiny lobe dark purplish red drying dark brown, and having several prominent, projecting spines on margins; tubercles ovoid, > 1/2 lobe, unequal and one larger; spines several per margin, to 1.6 mm long, lobe margin never dissected (not touching tubercle); achene 3-angled ovoid, in range 2–2.3 mm long, glossy brown.

Naturalized. Annual found growing at Malibu Lagoon in waterlogged soil, and likely elsewhere along the immediate coast. *Rumex pulcher* is a successful, weedy European species; in fruit fiddle dock has numerous well-developed bristlelike teeth on the perianth margins, which undoubtedly play a role in bird dispersal of this plant along coastal California habitats.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson