

Sagina decumbens (Elliott) Torrey & A. Gray subsp. *occidentalis* (S. Watson) G. E. Crow, WESTERN PEARLWORT. Annual, fine-taprooted, not rosetted, 1–several-stemmed at base, unbranched to several-branched, ascending, in range 2–5 cm tall; shoots delicate, glabrous, the leaves at basal nodes short-lived. **Stems:** inconspicuously 2-ridged, in range to 0.3 mm diameter, with each ridge descending from leaf and colorless, lacking obvious bulbous thickenings above each node, green but aging reddish purple at plant base. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile and pair fused across node forming cuplike tissue, without stipules; fused base \pm 0.6 mm long, nongreen portion of cup aging with sunken cells; blade (above cup) linear, 3–11 \times 0.3–0.45 mm, membranous-winged at base extending from cup, entire, acuminate at tip with a hard colorless point 0.2–0.3 mm long, with only midrib partially and slightly sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface. **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme with unequal branches, terminal, several-flowered, bracteate; peduncle to 12 mm long; bracts (bractlets) subtending each fork of cyme 2, leaflike, linear-lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate, shorter than leaves; pedicel slender and wiry, at anthesis to 6 mm long increasing 2 \times in fruit, ascending and oriented by scarcely bulbous bases, with scattered glandular hairs approaching flower. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 2 mm across, dish-shaped; hypanthium cup-shaped, \pm 0.1 mm long; **sepals** 5, \pm free, overlapping, cupped-ovate, at anthesis ca. 1.2 \times 0.8 mm increasing to 1.6 mm long in fruit, green, white-membranous on margins, rounded at tip and in fruit reddish purple near tip, midvein raised, with few scattered glandular hairs below midpoint; **petals** 5, not clawed, ovate, at anthesis 0.8 \times 0.4 mm increasing to 1.3 mm long in fruit, $<$ sepal, white with green at narrowed base, rounded at tip, finely veined, persistent and drying colorless; **stamens** 10 in 2 whorls, free, formed on hypanthium; filaments unequal, ascending to erect, at anthesis ca. 0.5 mm long increasing in fruit, outer stamens $>$ inner stamens, colorless; anthers dorsifixed, conspicuously dithecal, 0.15 mm long, whitish, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen whitish; **nectaries** at bases of stamens, yellowish green; **pistil** 1, not stalked, ca. 0.9 mm long; ovary superior, ovoid, green, glabrous, 1-chambered with many ovules attached to base on a central post; styles 5, ascending, \pm 0.2 mm long increasing 2 \times in fruit, translucent-white, stigmatic on inside of styles, conspicuously papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, not stalked, dehiscent from top by 5 valves, many-seeded, ovoid, ca. 2.2 \times 1.2 mm, valves splitting full length, rounded and flaring at tips, seeds stalked on central postlike placenta. **Seed:** ovoid, 0.25–0.35 \times 0.2–0.25 mm, light brown, wrinkled to netlike with \pm radiating or arching grooves and transverse wrinkles. Mid-April–mid-May.

Native. A tiny, delicate annual discovered in spring 2009 by Tony Valois in the vicinity of Castro Peak above Solstice Canyon, growing in wet sandy soil along a trail passing through chamise (*Adenostoma*) and occurring with the annuals *Crassula connata*, *Heterocodon rariflorum*, and *Juncus bufonius*.

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