

Salicornia pacifica Standl., WOODY GLASSWORT, PICKLEWEED. Fleshy subshrub, halophytic, rhizomatous, alternately branched below and opposite decussate branched above, with terminal inflorescences on short lateral shoots, decumbent to erect, 20–125 cm tall; shoots appearing jointed (articulated) with each stem internode covered completely by a pair of decurrent fleshy leaf bases fused to stem tissue, bluish green, glabrous and slightly glaucous; adventitious roots at nodal on decumbent stems. **Stems:** \pm cylindrical, 2.8–4.8 mm diameter, internodes \pm regularly spaced, barrel-shaped, mostly < 10 mm long but the lowest internode of a new shoot 2-winged, increasing to 25 mm long on older main axes; old stems brown and with dried, split leaf bases, 3.7–5.5 mm diameter. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple and sheathing, sessile with pair completely fused, without stipules; leaf bases = barrel-shaped tube around stem, tapered or rounded at base (proximal end) and appressed and cupped at top around node (distal end); blade highly reduced, 2 blades forming a collarlike rim at node (perfoliate), the rim shallow, 0.4–0.6 mm long, slightly and broadly notched where blades fuse, exposed blades to 2 mm long, broadly obtuse at tip, abruptly tapered to a \pm translucent acute edge. **Inflorescence:** spikelike array of opposite decussate cymes (thyrses), terminal on erect lateral shoot, cylindrical, in range 10–75 \times 3–4 mm, of 12–40 fertile segments each with a pair of cymes, each cyme 3-flowered having flowers arranged horizontally at node, bracteate, glabrous; peduncle cylindrical to 4-sided or 2-winged (resembling a basal internode of lateral branches), 7–16 mm long, fleshy from decurrent leaf bases; fertile segments 2–4.5 \times 2.5–3.8 mm; fleshy bracts subtending pair of cymes = leaf rim and blades 1–2.7 mm long (< leaves), concealing cymes until stamens or stigmas exerted; pedicels absent, flowers fused to each other at base, the central flower larger than lateral flowers. **Flower:** bisexual, highly reduced and mostly concealed; strongly protandrous; **perianth** of 2–3(–4) segment fused on outer lateral edge, \pm bladderly, variable in shape but \pm wedge-shaped to inversely pyramidal, 1–1.3 mm long, mostly colorless but greenish centrally on exposed surface and colorless marginally, truncate and slightly convex at tip; **stamens** 2, free, exerted; filaments colorless; anthers saddlebag-like, 1 mm long, pale yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen pale yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, 1–1.3 mm long, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style absent; stigmas 2, exerted, spreading, 0.8–1 mm long, colorless, strongly papillate-hairy. **Fruit:** fleshy achene, polygonal, drying membranous. **Seed:** vertical, ellipsoid, 1.2–1.5 mm long, membranous light brown, with curved or hooked hairs 1–2 mm long; enclosing horseshoe-shaped embryo. Early June–mid-December.

Native. Fleshy subshrub inhabitant of salt marsh where roots are exposed to tidal episodes of salt water and grow only in locations where salt concentration is high, with other halophytes such as *Jaumea carnosa* and *Frankenia salina*, at Malibu Lagoon and Point Mugu. *Salicornia pacifica* was formerly treated as *Salicornia virginica*, which is now regarded as an annual, not a perennial, species, and also *Sarcocornia pacifica*. The stems appear jointed; they are composed of internodes concealed by decurrent leaf bases fused to the stem, and the leaf blades are highly reduced. There are six flowers per node, equal to two three-flowered cymes. Flowering begins midsummer when first stamens appear at the node, and on later days the stigmas become exerted, but several months are required for fruits to mature.

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