

Sedum spathulifolium Hooker, COLORADO STONECROP, SPOON-LEAVED STONECROP, BROADLEAF SEDUM. Perennial herb, leaf-succulent, sometimes rhizomatous, stolon-bearing, conspicuously rosetted, several-stemmed at base with several–many rosettes terminating stolons, with erect inflorescence to 10 cm tall; shoots with ± succulent basal leaves and cauline leaves, rosettes with 10–20+ leaves, 12–35(–60) mm across, glabrous, distinctly glaucous; rhizomes 1–4 mm diameter, branched, brownish (buried) or grayish green and encrusted with wax (where exposed), internodes 1–10 mm long; stolons (= axillary branchlets) cylindrical, 1–2 mm diameter, with ca. 5 internodes, the first internode > 20 mm long and others progressively shorter, pale greenish white with fine rose-pink streaks and minute dots, smooth but encrusted with thick surface wax; adventitious roots nodal. **Stems (inflorescence axis):** cylindrical (ribbed when dry), thinner than stolons, pink or dark rose, greenish and streaked reddish approaching flowers, internodes 3–5 mm long. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade of basal leaves spatulate to obovate, of outer leaves 9–17(–22) × 5–6 mm, succulent and 1.5–2.5 mm thick, outer leaves >> inner leaves, papillate on margins, obtuse to rounded at tip, firmly attached at base and somewhat persistent after dehydrating, obscurely veined, papillate with papillae in rows on upper surface; blade of cauline leaves fleshy and ± ephemeral, erect to ascending, obovate, 4.5–9 × 2.5–4 mm long, reduced upward, sessile with a short, descending flap at base on lower surface, papillate on margins, upper surface weakly papillate, with stomates appearing as pinkish dots. **Inflorescence:** cyme, terminal, with 3 principal branches, having > 15 sessile flowers, bracteate, typically not glaucous; bract subtending cyme = cauline leaf; bractlet subtending flower appressed to axis, fleshy, oblong to elliptic, to 4.5 mm long, rounded at base, entire, acute at tip. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 13 mm across; **calyx** 5-lobed, fleshy (includes fleshy receptacle); “tube” cup-shaped, 0.7–1 mm long (no tube internally); lobes erect, triangular-ovate, 1.9–2.5 × 1.5–1.8 mm, yellowish; **petals** 5, spreading at anthesis, narrowly lanceolate, 5–7.5 × ± 1.5 mm, yellow, acute at tip, persistent and ascending in fruit; **stamens** 10 in 2 whorls, outer whorl fused to calyx, inner whorl fused to petals; filaments ± 3.5 mm (outer stamens) fused with petal for 0.8–1.8 mm, 2.5–3 mm long (inner stamens); anthers basifixed, dithecal, ± 1 mm long, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **nectaries** 4–5, opposite petals at bases of pistils, kidney-shaped to squarish, ± 0.5 mm long and wide, yellowish; **pistils** 4–5, fused at base for ca. 1 mm, at anthesis 3–5 mm long, yellow to translucent at base, aging green tinged red; ovaries superior, erect, each narrowly pyramidal-conic with tapered style, with ca. 8–10 ovules attached to inner side; stigmas blunt. **Fruits:** follicles, 4–5, several-seeded, spreading when ripe, dehiscent along the inner walls, 4–8 mm long. **Seed:** pear-shaped, ± 1 × 0.5 mm long, yellow-brown, finely long-ribbed. Late May–early July.

Native. Perennial herb known only from a shady, rock cliff face in Malibu Creek State Park (SMM) in the vicinity of Century Lake. *Sedum spathulifolium* forms a set of rosettes on stolons; it can be classified as a leaf succulent but also produces ephemeral fleshy cauline leaves on the erect axis that becomes the inflorescence. The calyx appears to be 5-lobed, but most of the fusion at the base of the lobes actually is fleshy tissue of the receptacle.

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