

Spergularia macrotheca (Cham. & Schltdl.) Heyhn. var. *leucantha* (Greene) B. L. Robins., WHITE STICKY SAND-SPURRY. Perennial herb, many-stemmed at base from a branched caudex rooted in rock outcrop, in range prostrate to decumbent, 10–40 cm tall; shoots with only cauline leaves, leaves tufted on unexpanded axillary shoots, somewhat fleshy, glandular-hairy with stalked hairs. **Stems:** cylindric, ca. 1 mm diameter, green and red, swollen at and around nodes, internodes mostly 4–6 mm long, with stalked glandular hairs. **Leaves:** opposite decussate, simple, sessile, with stipules; stipules 2, attached to stem at node, ascending to erect, scarious, acuminate, 4.5–8(–11) mm long; blade hemicylindric, linear, 8–27 × 0.5–0.8 mm, entire, needlelike at tip (apicular), glabrous (lower leaves) and densely glandular-pubescent (upper leaves). **Inflorescence:** dichasial cyme, terminal and axillary, open, several-flowered on each branch, bracteate, glandular-hairy; bract subtending cyme leaflike, paired at fork, < 6 mm long, with scarious stipules; bractlet subtending pedicel narrowly lanceolate, 1–2 mm long; pedicel short–14 mm long, glandular-hairy. **Flower:** bisexual, radial, 4–8 mm across, dish-shaped; receptacle (hypanthium) at anthesis < 0.5 mm long; **sepals** 5 (also treated as calyx lobes), lanceolate to ovate, 4.5–5.5 mm long increasing slightly in fruit, green turning reddish with or without membranous margins, prominently keeled, ± acute at tip and awnless; **petals** 5, ovate to obovate, 2.5–4 mm long, < sepals, white, with inconspicuous teeth above midpoint; **stamens** 9–10, free, erect, 2 mm long; filaments white; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, ovoid, 2 mm long, light green, 1-chambered with many ovules attached to central post; styles 3, short, yellow, papillate. **Fruit:** capsule, loculicidal, dehiscent by 3 valves, many-seeded (ca. 100), tip projecting beyond calyx 2 mm, ca 100 seeds born from placentas from a central axis. **Seed:** with marginal wing and roundish in outline, seed body compressed-ovoid, 0.6 mm, reddish brown; wing encircling seed scarious, 0.1–0.2 mm wide, paler.

Native. Perennial herb known from coastal bluff location along a hiking trail overlooking Pacific Coast Highway, west of Big Sycamore Canyon, but expected elsewhere in similar habitat.

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