

Suaeda calceoliformis (Hooker) Moq., HORNED SEA-BLITE. Annual or short-live perennial herb, halophytic, with decumbent branches (erect if annual), 20–80 cm tall; shoots with ascending to widely spreading, fleshy, upward arching leaves, glabrous, glaucous. **Stems:** initially ridged, young stems ca. 1.5 mm diameter, with ridge descending from each leaf, aging \pm cylindrical, light green becoming reddish but light brown when leafless, internodes 2–7 mm long, glabrous, glaucous when young. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, sessile, without stipules; blade narrowly lanceolate to linear lanceolate, in range 7–28 \times 1.8–3.6 \times 1–1.5 mm, entire, narrowly acute and sometimes with a short point at tip, obscurely 1-veined, yellow-green, glaucous, upper surface \pm flat, lower surface convex. **Inflorescence:** leafy, spikelike arrays of sessile axillary cymes (glomes), glome headlike and 3–5(–7)-flowered, with only bisexual flowers, bracteate, glabrous, glaucous; bract subtending glome leaflike, ascending to spreading, narrowly lanceolate to ovate, 1.8–9 \times 1–2.5 mm; bractlet and bracteoles subtending flower 1–3, obscure, deltate to ovate, \pm 0.5 mm long, white-membranous. **Flower:** bisexual, generally asymmetric with 1 calyx lobe larger than rest or central flower with 2 calyx lobes smaller and thinner, 1.6–2.6 mm wide, nonshowy; receptacle flat, thin but fleshy; **perianth (calyx)** (4–)5(–6)-lobed, nearly free, glabrous; lobes fleshy, unequal, \pm ovate or oblong, 0.9–1.4 \times 0.7–1.1 mm, distinctly convex and sometimes ridged on outer face aging keeled or horned at tip, concave on inward face, narrowly membranous on margin, with conic or transverse protuberance at base, light green to midpoint and green above midpoint; **stamens** 2 (in range), opposite perianth lobes; filaments 0.5–0.7 mm long, whitish to pale green, flattened front-to-back; anthers exerted, dorsifixed, dithecal, heart-shaped, \pm 0.3 mm long, light yellow, each sac oblong to kidney-shaped and fused above midpoint, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1, glabrous; ovary superior, transversely ellipsoid, ca. 0.6 \times 0.8 mm, pebbly on surface, abrupt tapered into style, 1-chambered with 1 basal, horizontal ovule; style \pm 0.15 mm long; stigmas 2, spreading or ascending, 0.15–0.3 mm long, minutely papillate. **Fruit:** utricle, 1-seeded, often dimorphic and horizontal or sometimes oblique, conforming to shape of seed, horizontal form easily separated from fruit wall. **Seed:** of horizontal fruit, thickly lenticular and biconvex but with protruding radicle tip, 1–1.2 mm wide and 0.5–0.6 mm thick, glossy dark brown to dark reddish brown (black), smooth but with fine network of cells evident on seed coat; of oblique fruit, flat lenticular, 1–1.5 mm wide, dull brown. Early July–late October.

Native. Halophytic perennial reported on boundary of range at Pt. Mugu and historically once collected on a clay flat near the ocean in Pacific Palisades. *Suaeda calceoliformis* here is treated as including *S. depressa*, the perennial form. This species is easily recognized as having “horns” on the calyx lobes, which are unequal on each flower and fruit. Local material appeared to have only two stamens, but is illustrated elsewhere as having five stamens. Two forms of seed types are recorded for this species, although only horizontal fruits and seeds were observed.

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