

Symphyotrichum subulatum (Michx.) G. L. Nesom var. *parviflorum* (Nees) S. D. Sundb., SOUTHWESTERN ANNUAL SALTMARSH ASTER. Annual, taprooted, rosetted, 1-stemmed from base, typically with ascending branches at least from midplant, erect, in range 25–145 cm tall; shoot with basal leaves and cauline leaves but basal leaves withered by flowering, \pm glabrous throughout. **Stems:** \pm cylindrical in \times -section, to 8 mm diameter, with 3 grooves descending from each leaf, green aging rose to purplish, the grooves light green to light yellowish green and glabrous. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, subsessile to sessile, attached nearly halfway around stem but not clasping, grading into bracts of inflorescence, without stipules; blade narrowly oblanceolate to linear or linear-lanceolate, 60–220 \times 2–14 mm, the largest often at midplant, gradually tapered at base, entire, long-acuminate at tip, parallel-veined at base (resembling a winged petiole) with midrib raised on lower surface, glabrous but on upper surface with sparse hairs at base, most of blade with netlike venation. **Inflorescence:** heads, in terminal and axillary, open, paniclelike arrays, head radiate, 5.5–6.5 mm across, typically with 27–38 ray flowers and 8–15 disc flowers, bracteate; peduncle ascending, slender, 15–60 mm long, ridged, with several bracts along axis, the bracts leaflike, linear-lanceolate to linear, upper bracts short-ciliate at base and on upper surface with appressed short hairs; **involucre** narrowly bell-shaped, 5.5–7 \times 2.3–2.7 mm but flaring 3.7–4.5 mm wide at tip, phyllaries 30–35(–42) in 5–6 series, unequal, outer phyllaries narrowly triangular, ca. 2.3 \times 0.9 mm, inner phyllaries narrowly lanceolate or linear, ca. 5.2 \times 0.6 mm, acute to acuminate at tip, pale green most of midvein length, green aging purplish on both sides of midvein, entire and membranous on margins, reddish to purplish at tip; receptacle at anthesis \pm flat and \pm 1 mm diameter, becoming convex to hemispheric and 2.3–2.7 mm diameter in fruit, without bractlets (paleae). **Ray flower:** pistillate, bilateral, ca. 0.5 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 18–23 capillary bristles in 1 whorl, bristles unequal, 2.4–3.5 mm long, white; **corolla** unlobed to minutely 2-toothed or 3-toothed; tube cylindrical, 2.2–3 mm long, white or pale green, sparsely short-strigose at top (also at base of limb); limb spreading, narrowly lanceolate to oblanceolate, 2.2–3 \times 0.3–0.5 mm, white to light purplish pink, obtuse or with minute teeth, coiling 2–3 \times at tip; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly obovoid to top-shaped, \pm 0.7 mm long, whitish, inconspicuously 5-ribbed, short-strigose, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, 3.5–3.8 mm long, 2-branched, the branches divergent, linear to slightly tapered, \pm 0.7 mm long, yellowish to greenish yellow, rounded at tip, minutely papillate-hairy. **Disc flower:** bisexual, radial, ca. 0.5 mm across; **calyx (pappus)** of 25–33 capillary bristles in 1 whorl, bristles subequal, 3.2–3.8 mm long, white; **corolla** 5-lobed, narrowly funnel-shaped, 3.3–4 mm long, glabrous; tube cylindrical, \pm 1.5 \times 0.25 mm, pale yellow; throat cylindrical, 1.5–1.7 \times 0.4–0.6 mm, yellow; lobes ascending, acute, \pm 0.4 mm long, bright yellow; **stamens** 5, fused to corolla at base of throat; filaments \pm 0.7 mm long; anthers fused into cylinder surrounding style, partially exerted, basifixed, dithecal, 1.2–1.3 mm long, yellow, appendaged at tip, the appendages narrowly acute, \pm 0.3 mm long, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen yellow; **pistil** 1; ovary inferior, narrowly obovoid to top-shaped, 0.7–0.9 mm long, whitish, inconspicuously 5-ribbed, short-strigose, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style ca. 3.9 mm long, **nectary** swelling forming a small ring around base of style; style 2-branched, the branches exerted entire length, \pm 0.8 mm long, yellow, flat on inner faces, narrowly acute above midpoint, stigmatic and conspicuously papillate-hairy. **Fruits:** cypselae, monomorphic, slightly compressed-fusiform to narrowly oblanceoloid,

1.7–2.8 × 0.3–0.4 mm, brown, (3–)4–6-ribbed, lighter brown to straw-colored on ribs, with short ascending hairs on faces; pappus 2.5–4.7 mm long. Late August–late November.

Native. Annual occurring on the edge of standing water, mostly on the westernmost boundary of the range but occasionally observed elsewhere in SMM. *Symphyotrichum subulatum*, formerly treated as a species of *Aster*, is a plant with narrow leaves and wispy reproductive branches; it belongs to a different subgenus than its larger-leaved relative occurring in range. *Symphyotrichum subulatum* is a species programmed to flower late summer and fall.

B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson