

RESEDACEAE MIGNONETTE FAMILY

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Annual, biennial, or perennial herbs or shrubs. STEMS erect or ascending. LEAVES simple, alternate or fasciculate, entire to deeply lobed; stipules gland-like. INFLORESCENCES terminal racemes or spikes. FLOWERS perfect, bracteate, irregular and asymmetric; sepals 2 to 8, persistent or deciduous, distinct or basally connate; petals 0-8, small, distinct or connate; stamens 3-many, the filaments distinct to connate; pistils 2-8, basally connate, each with a beak-like stigma; ovary superior, unilocular; ovules 1-many per locule. FRUITS capsules. SEEDS few to many, reniform.—6 genera, 70 spp., chiefly Medit.

Oligomeris Camb. Whitepuff

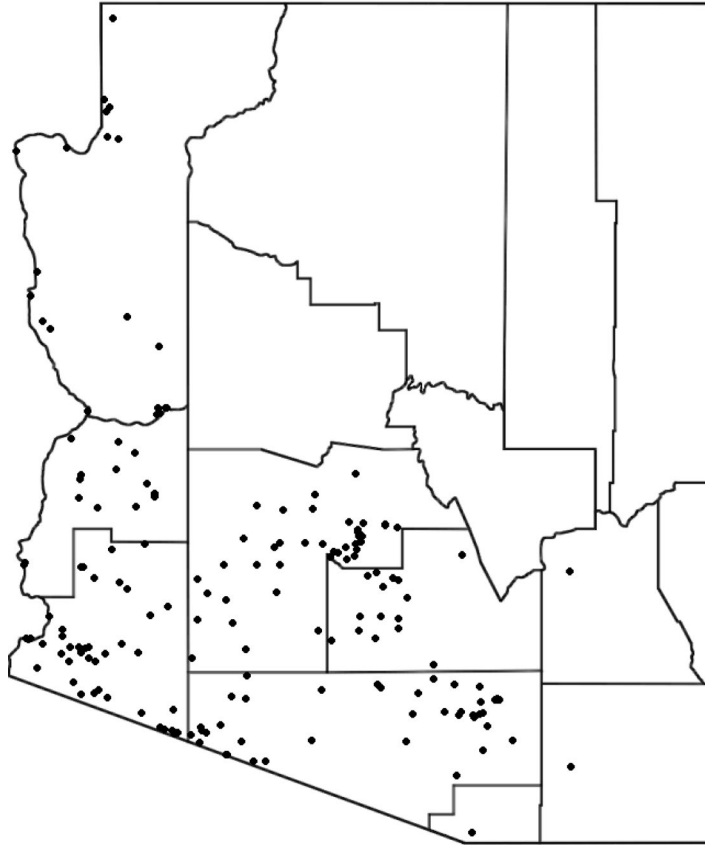
Annual or perennial herbs. LEAVES alternate, sometimes appearing fasciculate; blades entire, or sometimes toothed near the base. INFLORESCENCES spikes. FLOWERS: sepals 2–6, persistent, distinct, white-margined; petals 2–3, distinct to basally connate, entire to shallowly lobed; stamens 3-10; filaments persistent, distinct or basally connate; ovaries 4(–5)-carpellate. FRUITS erect, subglobose to obovoid, opening with an apical pore, the walls membranous. SEEDS smooth, shiny.—3 spp.; sw N. Am., n Mex., sw & c Asia, Afr. (Greek: few parts).

Oligomeris linifolia (Vahl) Macbr. (flax-leaved). Flaxleaf whitepuff.—Annual herbs, glabrous, somewhat succulent or fleshy. ROOTS taprooted. STEMS erect, to 45 cm, branching from base. LEAVES sessile, linear to narrowly oblanceolate, 8–50 mm long, 0.5–2 mm wide. INFLORESCENCES 4–16 cm long; bracts persistent, 1–1.5 mm long, triangular or subulate. FLOWERS sessile, to 2 mm long; sepals 4, ovate-lanceolate to deltate; petals 2, white, ovate, distinct or sometimes basally connate; stamens 3, the filaments to 1 mm long. FRUITS subglobose, with 4 teeth at apex. SEEDS black or brown, shiny, ca. 25–30 per fruit, 0.5–0.7 mm long. $2n = 30$. [*Reseda linifolia* Vahl].—Salt and clay flats, boulders and gravel bars in arroyos and along rocky slopes, roadsides: Cochise, Graham, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, Yuma cos.; below 1200 m (3600 ft); Feb–Aug; CA, NM, NV, TX; Mex.; sw & c Asia, n Afr.

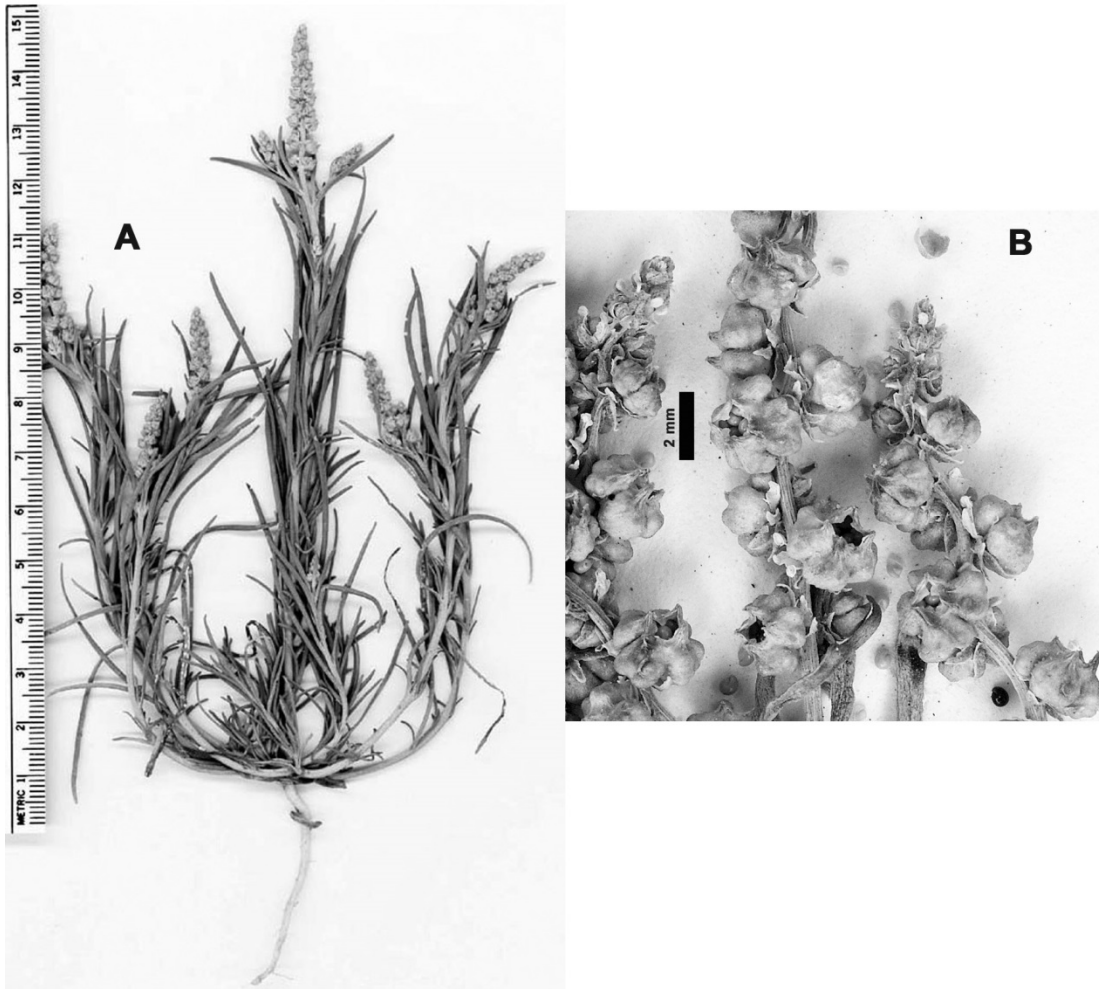
Recent molecular work suggests the species is native to North America, despite a substantial disjunction from other populations in Africa and Asia (Martin-Bravo et al. 2009).

LITERATURE CITED

MARTIN-BRAVO, S., R. VARGAS, M. LUCEÑO. 2009. Is *Oligomeris* (Resedaceae) indigenous to North America? Molecular evidence for a natural colonization from the Old World. *American Journal of Botany* 96(2): 507-518.



Resedaceae. Figure 1. Distribution of *Oligomeris linifolia*.



Resedaceae. Figure 2. *Oligomeris linifolia*. A. Scan of whole plant (*Landrum 10903*, ASU). B. Close up of spikes with flowers at apex and fruits below (*Landrum 12020*, ASU).