



Glossary & Indices

white sand verbena | *Abronia mellifera*

Glossary

A

ACHENE: A fruit with a sealed, hard hull containing one seed inside.

ANTHER: The sac on the stamen that contains the pollen.

ANTHESIS: The period of time a flower is in bloom.

APOPETALOUS: Petals are connected to the receptacle and not fused with one another.

ARACHNOID: A tangled mess of cobwebby hairs.

AREOLE: The small, miniscule spines that form a cushion where buds or new stems originate on cactus.

ARISTULATE: The tip of a structure that bears a small, sharp bristle.

AURICULATE: Ear-like lobes at or near the base of a structure.

AWN: An elongated nerve on the bracts or scales of a graminoid floret.

AXIL: The angle formed at the topside of a leaf and stem.

AXILLARY: A growth that arises from the angle of the stem and leaf.

B

BANNER: The upper most petal of pea flowers which are typically showy and stand out like a flag.

BARB: A structure, typically a hair, that has a recurved hook.

BIPALMATIFID: The shape of a leaf where the edges have two levels of 3-5 lobes clefted from a central point but that do not fully extend down to the main midvein.

BIPINNATE: The shape of a leaf where the main leaf axis has two degrees of divisions, and the leaf edge has been clearly divided to the primary and secondary main leaf axis and bears small leaflets.

BIPINNATIFID: The shape of a leaf where the main leaf axis has two degrees of division, and the leaf edges are lobed and do not fully extend down to the primary or secondary leaf axis.

BITERNATE: A leaf divided down to the midvein to bear three terminal leaflets which are again divided into thirds to form two degrees of terminal leaflets.

BRACT: The tiny leaves below the four whorls of flower organs on the flowering stalk.

C

CALYX: An inclusive term for all sepals.

CAPITULA [CAPITULUM [SINGULAR]]: A flower arrangement where a compact cluster of flowers attached directly to the flowering stalk.

CAPSULES: A dry, fruit container that splits open seed cavities.

CARYOPSIS: A hard dry, single seeded fruit that has the walls of the ovary connected directly to the seed.

CAUDEX: The short and persistent stem base that is usually but not always woody of an herbaceous stem.

CAULINE: Leaves attached to the stem.

CILIATE: The edge of a structure fringed with hair-like structures.

CLEISTOGAMOUS: A plant that self-fertilizes before it blooms.

COMA: A seed with a stalk that has a tuft of hairs.

COMPOUND LEAVES: A leaf divided into distinct sections of leaflets.

COMPOUND FLOWERS: A flowering stalk with multiple orders of branching.

COMPOUND RACEME: A flower arrangement where flowers attach to distinct stalks that grow from multiple orders of branches from the main flowering stalk.

COMPRESSED: A structure is laterally flattened.

CONVOLUTE: The structure is rolled up to resemble a scroll.

CORNICULATE: A structure with one or more small horns.

CORYMB: A flower arrangement where the flowering stalks start from different points but end at the same point to form terminal flower cluster that is flat-topped.

CULMS: The specialized stem shoot of a grass, rush, or a sedge.

CUPULIFORM: A structure shaped like a drinking cup.

CYMES: A flower arrangement where a highly branched flower stalk grows new distal flower clusters at the shoot elongates and forms either a flat-topped or round topped terminal flower cluster.

D

DIOECIOUS: Plants have either male or female flowers, but never both sexes present on the same individual.

DISC FLOWER: A tubular flower with five similar-sized petal lobes attached to the capitulum of a sunflower.

DISCOID: A sunflower head that only has disc flowers.

DIVISION: An edge of a surface that has been cleft down to the main axis.

DIVARICATE: The stems spread from the main trunk or base.

E

ELLIPTIC: A shape that is largest at its middle and its ends are equal in width

ENTIRE LEAF: A leaf that has smooth edges and is not divided.

F

FARINOSE: A surface covered in small, white particles.

FASCICLE: A cluster of structures like leaves from a leaf axil.

FLOCCOSE: A surface covered in delicate wooly hairs that are easily removed.

FLORET: A flower of a grass.

FRUIT: The organ that contains seeds.

FUNNELFORM: Flowers are a tube of fused petals shaped like a funnel.

G

GLABRESCENT: As a surfaces ages, it loses hairs and becomes hairless.

GLABROUS: A surface does not have hair.

GLANDULAR: A surface has organs that produce secretions.

GLAUCOUS: A surface covered with a white, waxy coating easily rubbed off.

GLUME: The small stiff leaf in a spikelet of a grass flower.

GLOMERULE: A flower arrangement where a cluster of flowers that are tightly compacted bundles.

H

HELICOID CYME: A flower arrangement where flowers grow along elongating spiral shoots where the terminal flowers are the youngest.

HIRSUTE: Hairs that are stiff, coarse, and firm.

HISPID: Hairs that are glass-like, stiff, and firm enough to break skin.

HOLOTYPE: The individual specimen taxonomist use to characterize the species concept.

HOARY: A surface densely covered in hairs that make it appear grey.

I

IMPARIPINNATE: A compound leaf bearing a terminal leaflet. See odd-pinnate.

INTERNODES: The sections of stem in between attached leaves.

INVOLUCRE: A cluster of flowers in a whorl of leaves.

INVOLUTE: The edges roll inward towards the center of the structure.

K

KEEL: A structure that juts outward to resemble the keel of a boat.

L

LACTIFEROUS: A plant part that can produce a milky sap.

LANATE: A surface covered in dense, interwoven indelible hairs.

LANCEOLATE: A raindrop shape with a tapered tip.

LEAFLET: One section of a compound leaf.

LEGUME: A fruit with one cavity that splits open as it dries.

LEMMA: The outermost modified leaf in a grass flower head above the glumes.

LIGULATE: A sunflower head that only has ray flowers.

LIGULE: The tongue-like structure at the intersection of the blade and the culm of a grass stem.

LOBE: An edge that is split into subdivisions to become rounded.

M

MARGIN: The edge of a surface that forms a distinct boundary.

MIDRIB: The primary support structure of a leaf.

MONADELPHOUS: Stamens fused together by their filaments into a single bundle.

MONOECIUS: An individual plant with separate female and male flowers.

MONOTYPIC: The only species within its genus.

N

NERVE: A linear vein that is slender and rib-like.

NODE: The point where a leaf attaches to the stem.

NUTLET: A small nut that has multiple lobes of the ovary.

O

ODD-PINNATE: A compound leaf bearing a terminal leaflet. See imparipinnate.

OBOVATE: A shape with a narrow base and enlarged apex that resembles an egg.

P

PALMATE: The shape of a leaf where the edge of the leaf has been divided into distinct sections down a central location on the main midvein.

PALMATIFID: The shape of a leaf where the edge of the leaf has five distinct lobes that do not fully extend down to the main midvein.

PANICLE: A flower arrangement where flowers attach to distinct stalks that grow from branching lateral stems, each bearing a solitary terminal flower.

PAPPUS: A fruit that bears a crown of modified sepals that appear hairy, scaly, or bristly in the sunflower family.

PAPILIONACEOUS: A flower that resembles a butterfly composed of an upper banner petal, a lower projecting keel petal, and two lateral wing petals.

PEDICEL: A distinct stalk connecting a single flower to the stem.

PEDUNCLE: A flower stalk connecting a cluster of flowers to the stem.

PEDUNCULATE: A branched flower stalk where the terminal branches connect cluster of flowers to the stem.

PETAL: A highly modified, often conspicuous, leaf on the inner series of the floral structure.

PETIOLE: The stalk attaching a leaf to the primary stem.

PHYLLARIES: The small whorl of leaves attached to the flower head. The use of this term is specific to species in the Asteraceae family.

PILOSE: A surface densely covered in short hairs.

PINNATE: The shape of a leaf where the primary leaf axis is undivided, but the leaf edges are clearly divided down to the primary leaf axis and bears small leaflets.

PINNATIFID: The shape of a leaf where the primary leaf axis is undivided, and the leaf edges are distinctly lobed and do not fully extend down to the primary leaf axis.

PISTIL: The female seed-bearing reproductive organs of a flower consisting of the stigma, style, and ovary.

PSEUDOSCAPE: A flowering stalk that has concealed leaves attached to it and so it appears to be leafless.

PUBESCENCE: A surface covered in any type of hair, but hairs are often fine and stiff.

PUBESCENT: A surface covered in soft hairs.

R

RACEME: A flower arrangement where flowers attach to distinct stalks that grow from the main flowering stalk.

RACHIS: The main axis of a structure that has been divided into smaller structures in a similar pattern.

RADIATE: A sunflower head that bears both ray and disc flowers.

RAY FLOWER: A flower that grows an extended tongue-like lobe from a tube of fused petals.

RHIZOMATOUS: A stem that grows underground and appears like a creeping root system.

S

SAGITTATE: An arrowhead shaped leaf.

SALVERFORM: Flowers are a tube of fused, abruptly flared and flattened petals shaped like a trumpet.

SCABROUS: A surface covered in short, stiff, bristly hairs or projections.

SCAPE: A leafless flowering stalk.

SCHIZOCARP: A fruit that splits open as it matures to release multiple single seeded subsections.

SEPAL: The outermost whorl of the reproductive flower organs that typically protect the developing interior organs.

SERICEOUS: Hairs that appear or feel silky-soft.

SESSILE: A structure attached directly, lacks a stalk.

SILICLE: A fruit pod in the shape of a disc.

SILIQUE: A fruit pod in the shape of an elongated tube which splits open along a central, thin partition.

SOLITARY FLOWER: A single flower occurs at the terminal tip of a flowering stalk.

SOLITARY FLOWER HEAD: Flowers are contained within a single flower head at the terminal tip of a flowering stalk.

SPIKE: Flowers are alternate and attached directly to the stalk.

SPIKELET: The collection of florets from a grass or sedge that are above the glumes.

SPINY-WINGED: The spiny, wing-like internodal connective tissue along a stem.

STAMEN: The male pollen-bearing reproductive organ of a flower consisting of the filament and anther sacs.

STELLATE: Hairs that are radiating outward from a central point which makes them appear like twinkling stars.

STIPULE: An appendage at the base of a leaf or petiole.

STRIGOSE: A surface covered in stiff and appressed hairs.

SYMPODIAL: A plant that lacks a primary flowering stalk.

T

TEPAL: Designation for when petals and sepals are indistinguishable.

TETRADYNAMOUS: A distinct stamen pattern when four stamens are longer than two shorter stamens.

THROAT: The opening of flared, fused petals.

THYRSE: A compound flower arrangement where the primary flowering stalk has flowers attached to highly branched, elongating, distinct stalks that have secondary flowering stalks bearing new distal flower clusters and form a compact cylinder.

TOMENTOSE: A surface covered in short, soft, matted hairs.

TRIFOLIATE: A leaf divided into three small leaflets.

TRIPINNATE: The shape of a leaf where the main leaf axis has three levels of divisions, and the leaf edge has been clearly divided to the primary, secondary, and tertiary leaf axis and bears small leaflets.

TRIPINNATIFID: The shape of a leaf where the main leaf axis has three levels of divisions, and the tertiary leaf edges are lobed and do not fully extend down to the tertiary leaf axis and bear pinnules.

TRUNCATED: A structure that appears to be cut off or simply ends abruptly.

TUBE: A structure that is a hollow cylinder, typically used to describe the portion of trumpet shaped flowers.

U

UMBEL: A flower arrangement where flower stalks are fused at single point to form a spreading cluster.

V

VILLOUS: A surface covered in long, soft shaggy hairs.

VERTICILLASTER: A flower arrangement where clusters of flowers grow on distinct stalks from the point of the leaf attachment to the stem, forming two opposing groups that create a false whorl.

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turpentine wavewing | *Pteryxia terebinthina*

Swallowtail | *Papilio species*

