



## DUNE BUCKWHEAT

Scientific name: *Eriogonum parvifolium*  
Plant family: Polygonaceae

### Natural Information

Dune buckwheat is endemic to California and somewhat of a rare annual shrub. Found on hillsides, dunes, and sea bluffs at elevations below 2000', partial to full sun exposure and dry conditions favor its growth. Flowers serve as a mating, nesting, and larval and adult nectar food source for the endangered El Segundo Blue butterflies and Smith's Blue butterflies (*Euphilotes enoptes smithi*). It flowers from June to fall.

### Physical Description

- Flower: pinkish white
- Leaves: 1/4" - 3/4"; thick, glossy, green top; rolled edges; cotton-like white on underside; top surface becomes orange to red with age
- Stem: wooden; brittle; pinkish tan

### Garden Tips/Extra Facts:

From 2' to 4' tall with a diameter of 20" to 80". The plant has fire-retardant properties and is a good ground cover. It has a high salt tolerance and low water requirements. The name *parvifolium* translates into "small-leaved," although this is a misnomer because the leaves of *E. parvifolium* are larger than those of *E. fasciculatum*.



© 2003 Christopher L. Christie



© 2001 Lynn Overtree