

Common sheep sorrel

Rumex acetosella

Description

Habit

Dioecious, herbaceous perennial with creeping rhizomes. Grows 4-16 inches in height and roots can reach a depth of 5 feet.

Leaves

Alternately arranged on flowering stem; arrowhead-shaped due to 2 lobes that occur at the base of the leaves. Most occur in a basal rosette and grow to 1-3 inches long, glabrous, and occur on petioles; Ocrea found on all leaves.

Stems

Erect, slender and reddish in color. Can reach 18 inches in height and branches in the upper portion only.

Flowers

Occur in clusters on nodding, flowering stems. Male flowers are yellowish-green in color while





the female flowers are reddish in color. Flowers are usually 2 mm. across and consist of 6 sepals and no petals.

Fruits and Seeds

Achene that are reddish in color.

Habitat

Native to Europe, Russia, the Middle East, and northern Africa. Can be found in sand prairies, sandy paths, abandoned fields, areas along railroads, gardens and lawns, gravel beds, and waste areas.

Reproduction

Reproduces vegetatively by creeping rhizomes and by seed dispersed by wind and insects.

Similar

Native heartwing sorrel (*Rumex hastatulus*).

Credits

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