



About Algerian Sea Lavender (*Limonium ramosissimum*) an early detection and eradication priority for San Francisco Bay information courtesy of Gavin Archbald

Beginning in 2006, two forms of several densely growing populations of an invasive plant, **Algerian sea lavender** (*Limonium ramosissimum* and *Limonium ramosissimum ssp provinciale*), were discovered in San Francisco Bay salt marshes. A perennial, salt-tolerant forb of Mediterranean origin, *L. ramosissimum* has spread to marshes and tidal lagoons in southern California, from San Diego to Santa Barbara. There, the plant displays invasive characteristics including broad salinity tolerance, prolific seed production and the ability to compete with native plantsⁱ.

In San Francisco Bay, *L. ramosissimum* has been found in the high marsh and upland transition zoneⁱⁱ where it forms near-monocultures and competes directly with native salt marsh species. At the upper end of this elevational range, *L. ramosissimum* grows taller, more robustly and produces more seed, competing directly with perennial pickleweed, and altering high tide wildlife refugia.

As of January 2011, about 4 acres of *L. ramosissimum* have been detected in a few San Francisco Bay marshes (see attached map), typically with a history of either restoration or disturbance. The largest and densest known San Francisco Bay population has been found in Sanchez Marsh in the city of Burlingame. If left unmanaged, *L. ramosissimum* could further establish and invade additional San Francisco Bay wetlands. Mature plants annually produce tens of thousands of seeds per square meter and these seeds float viably for weeks in bay water, later able to germinate in fresh or saline conditionsⁱⁱⁱ.

Working together we can eradicate invasive *Limonium ramosissimum* from San Francisco Bay. Please report new sightings to the appropriate land managers as well as the occurrence database at www.Calflora.org.



Photos left to right: *Limonium ramosissimum* (with purple flowers) invading the marsh at Coyote Point by Gavin Archbald, *L. ramosissimum* flowers by Brad Kelley, *L. ramosissimum* removal by Gavin Archbald.

ⁱ Page, H.R., Schroeter, S., Wolf, J. and David Hubbard. 2007. PowerPoint Presentation. "Ecology of the exotic sea lavender, *Limonium ramosissimum* in the salt marshes of southern California". Society of Wetland Scientists, Sacramento, CA.

^{ii, iii} Archbald and Boyer, unpublished.

For more information contact Gavin Archbald (GavinArchbald@gmail.com)
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There are four *Limonium* taxa in San Francisco Bay marshes

Two non-native invasives:

Limonium ramosissimum ssp.
provinciale (Algerian sea lavender)



Photo by Gavin Archbald

Limonium ramosissimum (Algerian sea lavender)



Photo by Gavin Archbald

Non-native ornamental
Limonium perezii
(Canary or Perez's sea lavender)



Photo by Gavin Archbald

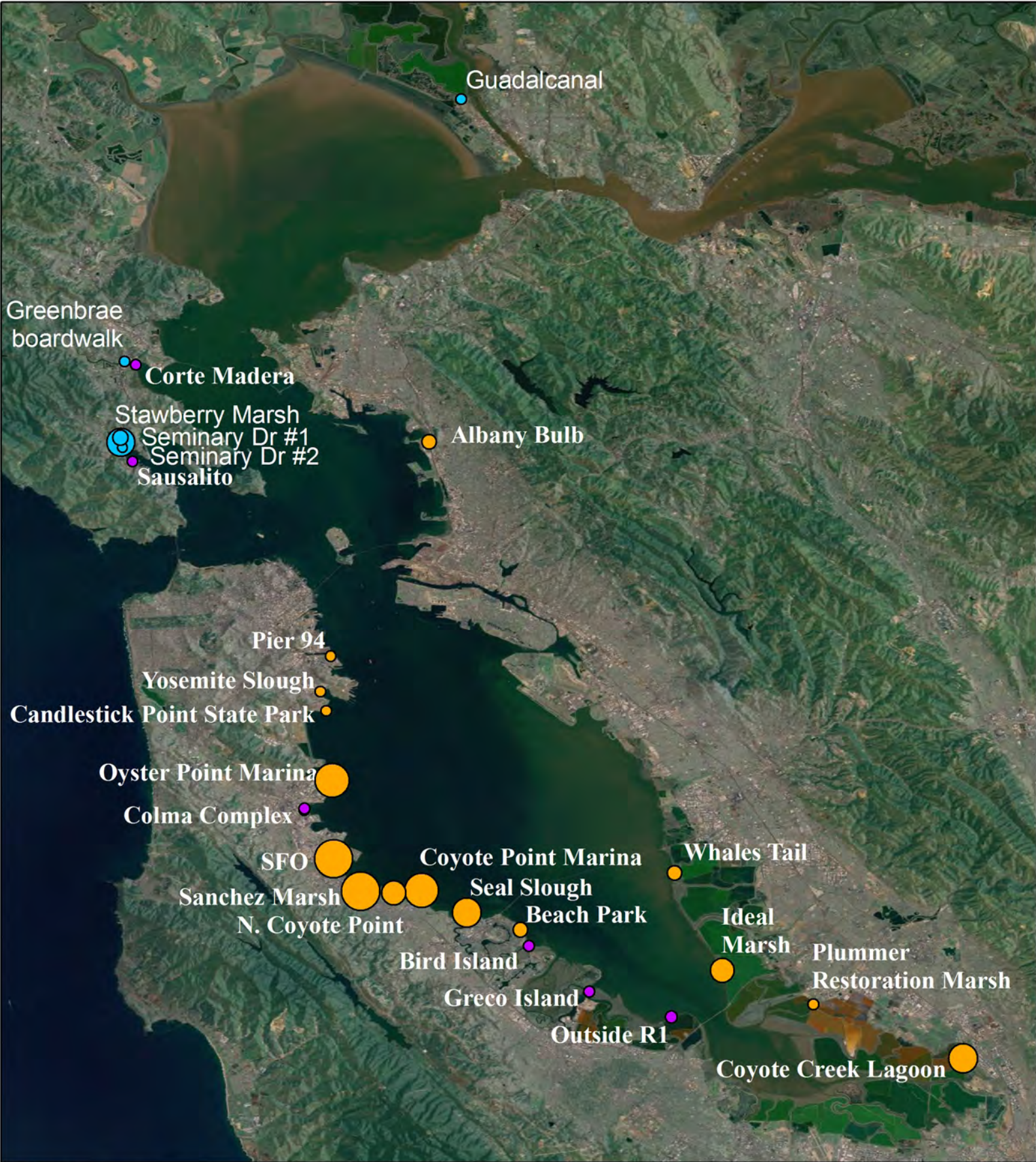
Native
Limonium californicum
(California sea lavender or marsh Rosemary)



Photo by Mike Perlmutter

Note larger, more spatulate-shaped leaves than both forms of *L. ramosissimum*. Note more open inflorescence and smaller flowers as compared to *L. perezii*.

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Limonium ramosissimum ssp. provinciale

-  1 m²
-  4500 m²
-  removed



Limonium ramosissimum

-  1 m²
-  300 m²



Data sources:
 - *L. ramosissimum ssp provinciale* populations mapped 2007- 2010.
 - *L. ramosissimum* population from calflora.org accessed 1/12/2011