

PORTULACACEAE

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Herbs or shrubby plants, often somewhat succulent. Leaves opposite, alternate or in basal rosettes. Stipules scarious or modified into hairs or rarely wanting. Flowers actinomorphic, perfect, solitary or crowded at the apex of the stems and branches or in terminal or axillary racemes or cymes. Sepals 2, free or united at the base. Petals usually 4—5, free or slightly united at the base, often deciduous, imbricate. Stamens inserted with the petals, sometimes more, or rarely fewer than the petals; the filaments filiform or subulate; the anthers 2-celled with longitudinal dehiscence. Ovary superior to inferior, 1-locular; style 1, with 2—8 stigmatic branches. Ovules 2 to numerous, on a central or basal placenta, campylotropous. Fruit a loculicidal or circumscissile capsule. Seeds 2 to numerous, round-reniform. Embryo nearly annular. Endosperm mealy, copious.

About 500 species in 19 genera in tropical and temperate regions, mainly in America.

Key to the genera:

- 1. Flowers solitary or clustered at the top of the branches; ovary half inferior
 *Portulaca*
- Flowers racemose or paniculate; ovary superior *Talinum*

Portulaca Linnaeus, Spec. Plant. 445. 1753

Annual or perennial herbs, diffuse or ascending, glabrous or pilose. Leaves alternate or sub-opposite, flat or terete, often in whorls around the flowers. Stipules scarious or minute or modified into hairs or wanting. Flowers perfect, solitary or crowded at the top of the branches. Sepals 2, united at the base. Petals 4—6, free or more or less united at the base, fugaceous. Stamens 4 to many, inserted at the base of the petals. Ovary partly or completely inferior; style 3—8-partite. Ovules many. Capsule 1-locular, circumscissile. Seeds many, reniform; testa smooth or minutely tuberculate.

Over 100 species in tropical and subtropical regions.

Key to the species:

1. Leaves flat 2
Leaves cylindrical or obovoid 3
2. Leaves alternate, obovate or spatulate, 0.6—3.5 cm long . . . *P. oleracea*
Leaves opposite, mostly elliptic or ovate, 3—6 mm long . . . *P. quadrifida*
3. Seeds black 5
Seeds brown or grey, not black 4
4. Seeds brown, flower-clusters surrounded by long brown hairs and an involucre of 5—8 leaves *P. rubricaulis*
Seeds grey, flower-clusters surrounded by rather short, white hairs and an involucre of 8—12 leaves *P. poliosperma*
5. Flower-clusters surrounded by long white hairs and an involucre of 4—8 leaves; corolla white; capsule 1.5 mm in diam. *P. halimoides*
Flower-clusters surrounded by brownish or whitish hairs and an involucre of (8—)10—20 leaves; corolla purple, red, or pink; capsule 3—4 mm in diam. 6
6. Sepals 2—3 mm long; petals 3—5 mm long; stamens 15 or more; capsule circumscissile at about the middle *P. pilosa*
Sepals 5 mm long; petals 8 mm long; stamens about 30; capsule circumscissile at about $\frac{1}{3}$ from the base *P. venezuelensis*

Portulaca oleracea L.

LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. 445. 1753; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 57. 1859; Duss, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 46. 1897; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 232. 1905; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 66. 1909; JOHNSTON, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 34(7): 210. 1909; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 188. 1913; Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 2: 29. 1914; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 3(1): 69, fig. 63. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 218. 1920; BRITTON & MILLSFAUGH, Bahama Fl. 138. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 299. 1924; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1: 49. 1929; QUESTEL, Fl. Isl. St. Bartholomew 107. 1941; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 146, fig. 60. 1951; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 145. 1954; Gekw. en nutt. pl. Ned. Ant. 113. 1954; Zakflora 181. 1964; GOODING *et al.*, Fl. Barbados 150, fig. 7. 1965; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 267. 1972.

A glabrous and fleshy annual; stems prostrate, erect or ascending; branches spreading radially, up to 50 cm long. Leaves alternate or subopposite; the blade obovate to spatulate, rounded or truncate at the apex, cuneate at the base, 0.6—3.5 × 0.3—2 cm; axillary hairs few and inconspicuous or wanting. Flowers sessile, solitary or clustered at the apex of the stems and branches. Sepals 2, triangular, keeled, acute, 3—5 mm long. Corolla yellow; petals nearly

twice as long as the sepals, fugaceous, free or basically united. Stamens 6—12. Style 1, with 3—6 stigmatic branches. Capsule 5—9 mm long, circumscissile at about the middle. Seeds black, nearly 1 mm broad, minutely tuberculate.

Temperate and tropical regions; often cultivated as a vegetable.

Common weed.

Vernacular names: bembe, postelein (Leeward Group).
purslane (Windward Group).

ARUBA: Plantation near Washington (Stoffers 1516, fl. & fr. Jan.); along road in Oranjestad (Stoffers 2124, fr. Feb.); Companashi (Arnoldo 100, fl. Dec.); without loc. (Koolwijk s.n. sub Suringar s.n., fr. [L]).

BONAIRE: near dam west of Jatoe Bacoe (Stoffers 628, fl. & fr. Nov.).

CURAÇAO: Klein Santa Marta (Stoffers 101, fl. & fr. Sept.); Veeris (Suringar s.n., fr. [L]); Brakkeput (Suringar s.n., fr. Jan. [L]).

SABA: Windwardside (Boldingh 2320, fl. & fr. July); road to Windwardside (Arnoldo 845, fl. & fr. Aug.); near Flat Point (Boldingh 2130, fr. July); Windwardside to Hellsgate (Boldingh 1664, fl. July); along road from The Bottom to windwardside (Boldingh 1329, fr. July); along roads from The Bottom to Crispine, 220—350 m (Stoffers 2988, fr. Ap.).

St. EUSTATIUS: seashore near Oranjestad (Boldingh 41, st. May); seashore near Venus Bay (Boldingh 966, fr. June); Oranjestad (Stoffers 3872, fl. & fr. July); near Boven (Boldingh 1248, fl. June); slope of the lower part of The Quill near Bengalen (Boldingh 722, fr. June); Bengalen (Boldingh 635, st. June); without loc. (v. Groll-Meyer 29, fr.; 28 fl. & fr.); Beach (Suringar s.n., fr. Ap. [L]).

St. MARTIN: between Mount Vernon and Orient Bay (Boldingh 2940, fr. Aug.); Airfield (Stoffers 2361, fl. & fr. Ap.); from Philipsburg to Guana Bay (Boldingh 2413, fl. Aug.); from Belvedere to Oyster Pond (Boldingh 3052, fr. Aug.); along roads in Princess Quarter (Boldingh 2912, fl. & fr. Aug.); Philipsburg (Stoffers 2326, fr. March); Tintamarre (Boldingh 3387, fr. Sept.); without loc. (Suringar s.n., fl. [L]).

ISLAND?: Boldingh 3585, fr.

Portulaca quadrifida L.

LINNAEUS, Mant. 1: 73. 1767; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 67. 1909; Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 189. 1913; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 219. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 299. 1924; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1: 50. 1929; QUESTEL, Fl. Isl. St. Bartholomew 106. 1941; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 149. 1951; GOODING *et al.*, Fl. Barbados 151. 1965; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 267. 1972.

A prostrate, much-branched, annual or perennial herb; stems creeping and rooting at the nodes; the latter encircled by white hairs. Leaves opposite; the blades flat, elliptic-ovate to ovate or oval, acute or obtuse at the apex, rounded or acutish at the base, 3—6 × 1—3 mm; the petiole short. Flowers sessile, solitary or clustered, surrounded by long white hairs and an involucre of 4

or 5 leaves. Sepals oblong to oval, thin, obtuse, about 2 mm long. Corolla yellow; petals 4, elliptic to oval, obtuse, about 4 mm long. Stamens 6—8. Style one, with 3 or 4 stigmatic branches. Capsule circumscissile above the base. Seeds greyish, about 0.8 mm in diam., spiny tuberculate.

Native of tropical Asia; tropical South America, Cuba to Trinidad.

Weed of roadsides and white grounds.

ST. EUSTATIUS: along roads in Oranjestad (Boldingh 550, fr. June); along roads from Bethlehem to Mount Chambord (Boldingh 2917, st. Aug.).

ST. MARTIN: Marigot road (Suringar s.n., fl. May [L]).

Portulaca rubricaulis Kunth

KUNTH in HUMBOLDT, BONPLAND & KUNTH, Nov. Gen. & Spec. 6: 73. 1823; — *Portulaca phaeosperma* URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 233. 1905; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 188. 1913; Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 2: 30. 1914; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 3(1): 170. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 219. 1920; BRITTON & MILLSAUGH, Bahama Fl. 138. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 300. 1924; QUESTEL, Fl. Isl. St. Bartholomew 107. 1941; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 147. 1951; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 146. 1954; Zakflora 182. 1964; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 267. 1972.

A fleshy, ascending or spreading herb, often somewhat shrubby, and up to 25 cm high. Leaves alternate; the blades terete or flattened, linear or linear-oblong, acute at the apex, 5—18 × 1—3.5 mm; the petiole about 1 mm long; hairs in the axils of the leaves usually rather inconspicuous. Flowers in terminal clusters at the top of the branches, surrounded by long brown hairs and an involucre of 5—8 leaves. Sepals ovate-orbicular, about 4 mm long. Petals 5, yellow, obovate to oval-obovate, rounded at the apex, 5—8 mm long. Stamens 12—16. Style with 5—7 stigmatic branches. Capsule globose, about 3 mm in diam., circumscissile above the middle. Seeds about 0.5 mm in diam., brown, minutely or densely rough.

Florida, Bahamas, Greater Antilles, Curaçao, and Bonaire.

Common weed.

BONAIRE: along coast in Kralendijk (Stoffers 951, fl. & fr. Dec.).

CURAÇAO: Groot Santa Marta (Stoffers 121, fl. Sept.); Veeris Berg (Boldingh 4732, fr. Oct.); Hofje of Zuurzak (Boldingh 5382, fr. Nov.); calcareous hills near Savonet (Boldingh 5040, fl. & fr. Nov.); top of Seroe Christoffel (Arnoldo 1886, fl. & fr. Jan.); Brakkeput (Suringar s.n., fr. Jan. [L]).

Portulaca poliosperma Urb.

URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 323. 1905; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 67. 1909; Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 189. 1913; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 300. 1924; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 148. 1951.

Ascending or spreading, much branched, annual herb; branches with inconspicuous tufts of small hairs in the axils of the leaves. Leaves alternate; the blade linear, obtuse or acutish at the apex, 5—15 × 1—2 mm; the petiole 1—1.5 mm long. Flowers in 2- to few-flowered clusters, surrounded by rather short white hairs and an involucre of 8—12 leaves. Sepals broadly ovate or ovate-orbicular, 2.5—3 mm long. Corolla purple; petals oblong, obtuse at the apex, about 4 mm long. Stamens 25—30. Style with 5—7 stigmatic branches. Capsule broadly ellipsoid, about 3—3.5 mm in diam., circumscissile at about the middle. Seeds grey, about 0.7 mm broad, with depressed, stellate tubercles.

Cuba, Puerto Rico, and St. Martin.

ST. MARTIN: Low Lands (Boldingh 3286A, fr. Sept.).

Portulaca halimoides L.

LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. ed. 2. 639. 1762; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 57. 1859; Duss, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 47. 1897; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 233. 1905; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 5: 341. 1907; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 66. 1909; Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 188. 1913; Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 2: 29. 1914; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 3(1): 170. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 219. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 300. 1924; QUESTEL, Fl. Isl. St. Bartholomew 106. 1941; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 147. 1951; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 146. 1954; Zakflora 181. 1964; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 267. 1972; — *P. pilosa* LINNAEUS var. *halimoides* O. KUNTZE, Rev. 3(2): 15. 1898.

Erect or diffuse, much-branched annual, up to 15 cm high; branches terete. Leaves alternate, fleshy; the blade subcylindric, oblong-linear, acutish at the apex, 5—15 × 1.5—2.5 mm; the petiole about 0.5 mm long. Tufts of white hairs in the axils of the leaves conspicuous. Flowers in terminal clusters, surrounded by long, white hairs and an involucre of 4—8 leaves. Sepals triangular, acute, slightly over 2 mm long. Corolla white with a yellow center; petals ovate to elliptic-ovate, about 3 mm long. Stamens 8—20. Style with 3—5 stigmatic branches. Capsule globose, about 1.5 mm in diam., circumscissile below the middle. Seeds black, about 0.4 mm in diam., minutely granulate.

Bahamas, Antilles, and Mexico to Venezuela.

Vernacular names: yerba di coneu, yerba di konenchi, yerba di pushi,
pia di palomba (Leeward Group).
silk cotton purslane (Windward Group).

ARUBA: near Matoguera (Stoffers 1446, fl. & fr. Jan.); calcareous soil near Manchebo (Boldingh 6294, fr. Dec.); calcareous hills and plateau near Belashi (Boldingh 6424A, fr. Jan.); calcareous soil near Oranjestad (Boldingh 6258, fl. & fr. Dec.); along roads near Noord (Stoffers 1537, fr. Jan.); near Oranjestad (Stoffers 2039, fr. Feb.); in Oranjestad (Stoffers 2119, fl. & fr. Feb.; Suringar s.n., fr. Jan. [L]); near Boca Mahos (Stoffers 1479, fl. & fr. Jan.); Companashi (Arnoldo 92, fl. & fr. Dec.); road near Ajó (Boldingh 6343f, fl. Dec.); Westpunt (Suringar s.n., fr. Feb. [L]); without loc. (Koolwijk s.n. sub Suringar s.n., fl. [L]).

BONAIRE: near dam, west of Jatoe Bacoe (Stoffers 625, fl. & fr. Nov.; 636, fl. & fr. Nov.); seashore near Piedra Cruz (Boldingh 7345, fr. Feb.); Fontein (Suringar s.n., fl. & fr. Feb. [L]).

CURAÇAO: Fort Amsterdam (Lens 837, fr. Feb.); calcareous soil near Knip (Boldingh 5567A, fr. Dec.); Santa Barbara (Went 1344, fr. Jan.); Wacao to Playa Grande (Britton & Shafer 3045, fr. March); Noordkant Plantation (Burgers 156, fr. Ap.); Malpais (Boldingh 4873, fr. Oct.); calcareous soil near San Pedro (Boldingh 5287, fl. & fr. Nov.); saltpans of St. Willebrordus (Stoffers 360, fl. & fr. Oct.); road to Hato (Suringar s.n., fr. Jan. [L]); Gasparito (Suringar s.n., fr. Jan. [L]); near Veeris (Suringar s.n., fl. & fr. Jan. [L]); Savonet (Suringar s.n., fl. & fr. June [L]); Plantersrust (Suringar s.n., fl. & fr. Jan. [L]).

SABA: Ladder Bay (Arnoldo 845, fr. Aug.).

ST. EUSTATIUS: Oranjestad (Boldingh 1080, fr. June; 549, fl. June, 86, fr. May); seashore near White Wall (Boldingh 853, fr. June).

ST. MARTIN: Tintamarre (La Gallo 1036, fl. & fr. Oct.); Green Key (Boldingh 3362, fr. Sept.); Cole Bay (George s.n. sub Boldingh 2522, fr. Aug.); Fort Amsterdam (Stoffers 2329, fr. March); Pointe Blanche (Stoffers 2563, fr. March); between Mount Vernon and Orient Bay (Boldingh 2443, fr. Aug.).

Portulaca pilosa L.

LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. 445. 1753; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 57. 1859; Duss, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 47. 1897; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 232. 1905; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 66. 1909; JOHNSTON, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 34(7): 210. 1909; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 189. 1913; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 3(1): 170. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 219. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 300. 1924; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1: 50. 1929; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 146. 1951; GOODING *et al.*, Fl. Barbados 151. 1965; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 267. 1972.

Ascending or prostrate herb; branches terete, somewhat woody below, often conspicuously pilose-pubescent. Leaves alternate; the blade linear-lanceolate, acute at the apex, 5—15 × 1—3 mm. Tufts of brownish or whitish hairs in the axils of the leaves. Flowers in terminal clusters, surrounded by long brownish or whitish hairs and an involucre of 6—10 leaves. Sepals triangular-ovate or ovate-oblong, acute at the apex, 2—3 mm long. Corolla purple or pink; petals obovate to broadly obovate, sometimes notched at the apex, 3—5 mm long. Stamens 15 or more; the filaments crimson. Style with 5—6 stigmatic branches. Capsule subglobose, 3—4 mm in diam., circumscissile at or about the middle. Seeds black, about 0.4 mm in diam., minutely tuberculate.

Southern United States, Central America, West Indies, tropical and subtropical South America.

Weed.

SABA: The Bottom (Boldingh 2264, fl. July; 2299, fl. & fr. July); Windwardside (Arnoldo 432, fl. & fr. Aug.); along roads, 200 m (Boldingh 1383, fr.).

Portulaca venezuelensis Urb.

URBAN, *Symb. Ant.* 5: 344. 1907; JOHNSTON, *Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.* 34(7): 210. 1909; BOLDINGH, *Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil.* 189. 1913; *Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl.* 2: 30. 1914; ARNOLDO, *Zakflora* 142, fig. 117. 1954; *Zakflora* 182, fig. 117. 1964.

Erect or ascending, perennial herb; branches usually simple, conspicuously pilose-pubescent and with long wooly hairs in the axils of the leaves. Leaves alternate, suberect; the blade linear, acute at the apex, 10—20 × 0.5—1.5 mm; the petiole about 1 mm long. Flowers in terminal, few-flowered clusters, surrounded by brown or whitish hairs and an involucre of 10—20 leaves. Sepals about 5 mm long. Corolla purple or red; petals narrowly obovate, emarginate and apiculate at the apex, about 8 mm long. Stamens about 36. Style with 6 stigmatic branches. Capsule subglobose, 3—3.5 mm in diam., circumscissile. Seeds black, 0.5 mm in diam., obtusely tuberculate.

Venezuela, Marguerita, Curaçao, Aruba, and Bonaire.

Vernacular names: bembe shimarón, yerba di coneu machu, pia palomba (Leeward Group).

ARUBA: road to Fontein (Arnoldo 321, fl. & fr. Dec.); Miralamar (Stoffers 1618, fr. Jan.); West of Kivarko (Stoffers 1982, fr. Jan.); calcareous soil near San Nicolas (Boldingh 6497, fr. Jan.); slope of Jaboribori (Boldingh 6273, fr. Dec.); Kristal Berg (Suringar s.n., fr. Feb. [L]); Hooiberg Suringar s.n., fr. Feb. [L]; without loc. (Boldingh s.n., fr.).

BONAIRE: Angola (Stoffers 827, fr. Nov.); Brandaris (Stoffers 968, fr. Dec.); calcareous plateau of Bolivia (Boldingh 7356, fr. Feb.); Joewa hills (Boldingh 7220, fl. & fr. Feb.); Rincón (Suringar s.n., fr. Feb. [L]); Fontein (Suringar s.n., fr. Feb. [L]).

CURAÇAO: hills near Knip (Stoffers 1104, fr. Dec.; 1120, st. Dec.; 1316, fl. & fr. Jan.); Westpunt (Boldingh 4928, fr. Nov.); Rooi Behoenda (Boldingh 5550, fl. & fr. Nov.); Seroe Christoffel (Stoffers 1279, fl. & fr. Dec.; de Wilde 150a, fr. Jan.; 156a, fl. Jan. [L]; Arnoldo 1873, fl. & fr. Jan.; Suringar s.n., st. Jan. [L]); hills along road from Westpunt to Savonet (Boldingh 5575, fl. & fr. Nov.); hills near Rooi Behoenda (Boldingh 5528, fr. Nov.); hills near Barber (Boldingh 5176, fr. Nov.); Wacao to Playa Grande (Britton & Shafer 3038, fr. March).

Talinum Adanson, *Fam.* 2: 245. 1763

Glabrous herbs, subshrubs or shrubs, ascending or erect. Leaves alternate, fleshy, flat or terete. Stipules wanting. Flowers in terminal or axillary racemes or cymes, rarely solitary. Sepals 2, free, often deciduous. Petals 5, free or united at the base. Stamens many, adhering to the base of the petals. Ovary superior; the style 3-fid. Capsule 1-ocular, 3-valved. Seeds many, flattened, subglobose or reniform; testa smooth or rigid.

About 50 species in tropical and subtropical regions, especially in America.

Key to the species:

1. Inflorescence paniculate, sepals deciduous, petals 4—5 mm long, usually pink *P. paniculatum*
 Inflorescence racemose, sepals persistent, petals 8—10 mm long, usually yellow, rarely pink *P. triangulare*

Talinum paniculatum (Jacq.) Gaertn.

GAERTNER, Fruct. et Sem. Pl. 2: 219, t. 128. 1791; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 231. 1905; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 65. 1909; JOHNSTON, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 34(7): 210. 1909; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 187. 1913; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 3(1): 171, fig. 64. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 8: 218. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 298. 1924; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1: 51. 1929; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 149. 1951; GOODING *et al.*, Fl. Barbados 152. 1965; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 267. 1972; — *Portulaca paniculata* JACQUIN, Enum. Pl. Carib. 22. 1760; — *Portulaca patens* JACQUIN, Hort. Vind. 2: 71, t. 151. 1772; — *Talinum patens* var. *d.* WILLDENOW, Spec. Plant. 2: 863. 1800; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 57. 1859; Duss, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 46. 1897.

Herb or erect undershrub, up to 70 cm high; stems simple or branched. Leaves elliptic or obovate, obtuse or sometimes acute at the apex, tapering at the base, 2—8 × 1—4.5 cm. Inflorescence consisting of a terminal panicle, up to 30 cm long; pedicels slender, terete, up to 2 cm long. Sepals oval to orbicular, deciduous, 3—4 mm long, acute. Petals ovate to orbicular, 4—5 mm long, red, pink or yellowish. Stamens many. Capsule subglobose, 3—5 mm in diam. Seeds black, shining, 1—1.2 mm broad, minutely striolate or rarely minutely tuberculate.

Southern United States, Central- and tropical South America, West Indies.

Weed.

SABA: Booby Hill, 600 m (Arnoldo 3282, fl. & fr. Dec.); The Bottom, 200 m (Stoffers 2903, fl. & fr. Ap.; Arnoldo 568, fl. Aug.); Laddergut, 0—200 m (Boldingh 1952, fl. & fr. July).

Talinum triangulare (Jacq.) Willd.

WILLDENOW, Spec. Plant. 2: 862. 1800; GRISEBACH, Fl. Br. W. Ind. Isl. 56. 1859; Duss, Fl. phan. Ant. franç. 46. 1897; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 4: 231. 1905; BOLDINGH, Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 1: 64. 1909; JOHNSTON, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 34(7): 210. 1909; BOLDINGH, Fl. Ned. W. Ind. Eil. 187. 1913; Fl. D.W. Ind. Isl. 2: 29. 1914; FAWCETT & RENDLE, Fl. Jamaica 3(1): 172. 1914; URBAN, Symb. Ant. 218. 1920; BRITTON & WILSON, Sci. Surv. Porto Rico & Virgin Isl. 5: 298. 1924; WILLIAMS, Fl. Trinidad & Tobago 1: 51. 1929; QUESTEL, Fl. Isl. St. Bartholomew 106. 1941; LEON & ALAIN, Fl. Cuba 2: 149. 1951; ARNOLDO, Zakflora 143, fig. 135. 1954; Zakflora 182, fig. 135. 1964; GOODING *et al.*, Fl. Barbados 152. 1965; ADAMS, Flowering plants of Jamaica 268. 1972; — *Portulaca triangularis* JACQUIN, Enum. Plant. 22. 1760; — *Portulaca racemosa* LINNAEUS, Spec. Plant. ed. 2: 640. 1762; — *Talinum crassifolium* WILLDENOW, Spec. Plant. 2: 862. 1800.

Up to 90 cm high fleshy herb or undershrub, erect, simple or branched; stems slender and striate. Leaves oblanceolate to obovate-lanceolate, obtuse, acute or emarginate at the apex, tapering at the base, 2—8 × 1—3 cm; the petiole about 0.5 cm long. Inflorescence consisting of a few- to many-flowered raceme or cyme, 7—30 cm long; pedicels slender, 3-angled, up to 1.5 cm long. Sepals free, lanceolate, lanceolate-ovate or nearly oval, 5—6 × 3—4 mm, acute, persistent. Petals broadly elliptic to oval, 8—10 × 5—6 mm, pink, purplish or yellow. Stamens many. Capsule subglobose, 4—6 mm in diam. Seeds black, shiny, nearly 1 mm broad, minutely striolate.

Southern United States, Central- and tropical South America, West Indies.

Common weed.

CURAÇAO: hills near Knip (Stoffers 1162, fr. Dec.); Anthony Berg (Boldingh 5147, fl. & fr. Nov.; 5148, fl. & fr. Nov.); Seroe Christoffel, 350 m (de Wilde s.n., fl. Feb. [L]).

SABA: Windwardside (Arnoldo 3234, fl. & fr. Dec.); The Bottom (Boldingh 2232, fl. & fr. July; Arnoldo 538, st. Aug.); The Mountain, 400 m (Boldingh 1768, fl. & fr. July); near Sulphurmines (Boldingh 1701, fl. & fr. July); without loc. (Lionarons s.n., st.).

ST. EUSTATIUS: Bengalen (Boldingh 612, fr. June); along roads in Oranjestad (Boldingh 1132, fr. June); near Boven, 200 m (Boldingh 1241, fl. June); without loc. (v. Groll-Meyer 63, fl. & fr.).

ST. MARTIN: from Belvedere to Oysterpond (Boldingh 3044, fr. Aug.); from Philipsburg to Belvedere (Boldingh 2569, st. Aug.); Cul de Sac (Suringar s.n., fl. May [L]).