

plants occur in more or less open formation, that is to say, the bare mud is visible between them. Some species (e.g. *S. ramosissima*) are liable to be coloured red, especially in autumn, by

a pigment which masks the natural green coloration. Where the plants grow at all thickly they form vivid crimson patches, a most telling feature in the sunlit landscape. Another annual plant that occurs on the same ground is *Succeda maritima* (fig. 41). Both these plants drop their seed on the mud in the late autumn and die, though their dead stalks generally resist weathering till the following spring, when the next crop of seedlings appears.

Another very characteristic plant of the low marsh is the Grass-wrack (*Zostera marina* and *Z. nana*), with narrow, ribbon-like



Fig. 40.—*Salicornia annua*, half nat. size

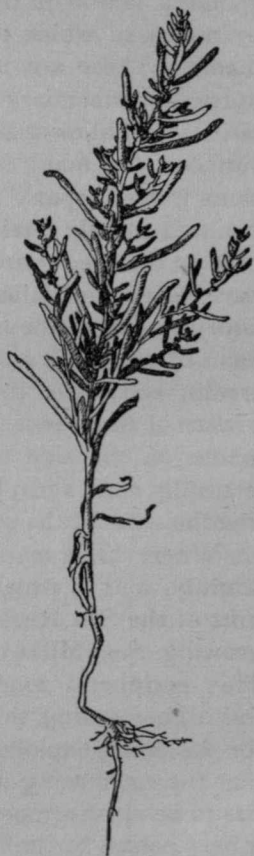


Fig. 41.—*Succeda maritima*, half nat. size

leaves spread out on the mud. *Zostera* reaches a lower level than either *Salicornia* or *Succeda maritima*, and most commonly occupies mud too soft to walk upon without sinking.

Besides these flowering plants the low marsh bears a quantity of Algæ, especially *Enteromorpha*, *Rhizoclonium*, and *Vau-*