KEY TO RUMEX (R) OF OUR AREA (SAN MATEO AND SANTA CLARA COUNTY)

1. Leaves lobed at the base..............................................R. acetosella (sheep sorrel)
1' Leaves not lobed at the base
2. Margin of tepals not toothed
   3. Main stem mainly trailing along the ground; plants not developing a basal rosette of leaves (R. salicifolius group)
   4. Tubercles 3...............................R. salicifolius var. transitorius (willow dock)
   4' Tubercle 1
      5. Inflorescence +/- open; leaves usually more than 3.5 times longer than wide, usually widest near middle or at leaf base..........................
         ........................................R. salicifolius var. salicifolius (willow-leaved dock)
      5' Inflorescence dense; leaves thick; usually not more than 3.5 times as long as wide, usually widest near the middle............................
         .................................R. salicifolius var. crassus (willow dock)
   3' Main stem upright; plants developing a basal rosette of leaves, although they may be withered when fruit mature
   4. Tubercles 0 or inconspicuous.................R. occidentalis (western dock)
   4' Tubercles 3 per flower, obvious
      6. Tapals usually 2 times as long as wide, narrowed from middle to base; largest tubercle almost as wide as inner tepal..........................
         ........................................R. conglomeratus (green dock)
      6' Tapals usually as long as wide, heart shaped; largest tubercles normally much narrower than inner tepals........R. crispus (curly dock)
   2' Margin of tepals toothed
      7. Tepals coming to a point at the base; teeth long to 4 mm, usually < 6; plants trailing along the ground......................R. maritimus (golden dock)
      7' Tepals not coming to a point at base; teeth > 6; plant upright
         8. Largest leaf > 20 cm; tepal segments toothed to middle..........................
            .........................................R. obtusifolius (bitter dock)
      8' Largest leaf to 20 cm; perianth segments toothed to below middle...........
         .........................................R. pulcher (fiddle dock)
R. conglomeratus (green dock) - tepal and tubercle

R. obtusifolius (bitter dock) - tepals and tubercle

R. maritimus (golden dock) - tepals and tubercle

R. crispus (curly dock) - tepals without tubercles

R. occidentalis (western dock) - tepals without tubercles

R. pulcher (fiddle dock) - tepal toothed to below middle