

## BRITTLESCALE (*ATRIPLEX DEPRESSA*)

### *Description*

### *Photos*

California Native Plant Society List 1B



Brittlescale is a small, annual herb in the goosefoot family (Chenopodiaceae). The brittle, white stems are less than 8 inches (20 cm) long and trail along the ground. The tiny, egg-shaped or heart-shaped leaves are 0.12 to 0.31 inch (3 to 8 mm) long, and they are white-scaly. Brittlescale produces flowers from May to October, but like many other annual saltbushes, the flowers are inconspicuous.

### *Habitat*

It grows in alkaline, clay soils in a variety of plant communities, including vernal pools, saltbush scrub, meadows, and grasslands.

### *Range/distribution*

Within the San Joaquin Valley, brittlescale is found in Contra Costa, Alameda, Yolo, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties; it formerly occurred in Stanislaus County.

Photo: © Robert E. Preston, Ph.D. from Calphotos: seq\_num=108517&one=T.

### *References*

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