

## SUBTLE ORACHE (*ATRIPLEX SUBTILIS*)

California Native Plant Society List 1B



### Description

Subtle orache is an annual member of the goosefoot family (Chenopodiaceae). It is quite similar to brittlescale (*Atriplex depressa*) and lesser saltscale (*A. minuscula*). The upright stems are often reddish-purple, like the latter. Subtle orache has leaves that are only 0.08 to 0.16 inch (2 to 4 mm) long, which are smaller than those of brittlescale. The two species also differ in minute details of the reproductive parts. Unlike lesser saltscale, subtle orache has primarily opposite leaves and branches. The inconspicuous male and female flowers of subtle orache are mixed in the leaf axils and appear from August to October.

### Habitat

This species occurs in grasslands, often in the vicinity of vernal pools

### Range/distribution

It is known from Butte, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties.

Photo: © Robert E. Preston, Ph.D. from URL: [http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/img\\_query?where-taxon=Atriplex+subtilis](http://elib.cs.berkeley.edu/cgi/img_query?where-taxon=Atriplex+subtilis).

### References

Stutz, H.C., and G.L. Chu. 1997. *Atriplex subtilis* (Chenopodiaceae): a new species from south-central California. *Madrono* 44(2):184-188.

Tibor, D.P., editor. 2001. California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California. Sixth edition. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, 387 pp.

### Photos

