

LOST HILLS SALTBUSH (*ATRIPLEX VALLICOLA*)

California Native Plant Society List 1B



Description

Lost Hills saltbush is an annual member of the goosefoot family (Chenopodiaceae). It is also known as Lost Hills crownscale. The short stems have few branches and alternate, egg-shaped leaves with entire margins. The individual flowers are inconspicuous because they are tiny and have no petals. Male and female flowers are mixed in small clusters in the upper leaf axils. Lost Hills saltbush flowers from April through August.

Habitat

It typically grows in the dried beds of alkaline pools within scrub or annual grassland communities, although it also has been found on exposed slopes rich in gypsum.

Range/distribution

In the San Joaquin Valley, Lost Hills crownscale has been reported from Merced, Fresno, Kings, and Kern Counties. It is also known from the San Joaquin Valley bioregion in San Luis Obispo County.

Photo: © Ellen Cypher

References

- Hoover, R.F. 1938. New Californian plants. Leaflets of western botany 2:130-131
- Olson, T.E., and D.L. Magney. 1992. Distribution of sensitive plant and wildlife species along transmission line corridors in southwestern San Joaquin Valley, California. Pp. 169-184 in *Endangered and sensitive species of the San Joaquin Valley, California: their biology, management, and conservation* (D.F. Williams, S. Byrne, and T.A. Rado, eds.). California Energy Commission, Sacramento, 388 pp.
- Rarefind, California Natural Diversity Data Base, Sacramento.
- Taylor, D., and D. H. Wilken. 1993. *Atriplex*. Pp. 501-505 in *The Jepson manual: higher plants of California* (J.C. Hickman, ed.). University of California Press, Berkeley, 1400 pp.
- 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.