

## VALLEY SPEARSCALE (*ATRIPLEX JOAQUINIANA*)

California Native Plant Society List 1B



### *Description*

Valley spearscale is an annual plant of the goosefoot family (Chenopodiaceae). It is also known as San Joaquin saltbush and San Joaquin orache. The stem height may be as small as 4 inches (10 cm) or as much as 3.3 feet (1 m), with many upright branches. The egg-shaped or triangular leaves range from 0.4 inch (1 cm) to 2.8 inches (7 cm) long and have wavy teeth. Tiny,

greenish flowers are produced in long spikes at the branch tips from April to October.

### *Habitat*

Valley spearscale grows in alkaline soils in saltbush scrub, playa, meadow, and grassland communities.

### *Range/distribution*

In the San Joaquin Valley, it might be located in Yolo, Sacramento, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Benito, Santa Clara, San Joaquin, Merced, and Tulare counties.

Photo: Dean Wm. Taylor. from Calphotos: seq\_num=105642&one=T.

### *References*

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