

Atriplex amnicola Paul G. Wilson, SWAMP SALTBUSSH. Shrub, evergreen, unarmed, highly branched, mound-like with rounded canopy, sometimes climbing fences, with arching terminal branches and short lateral shoots, 90–190 cm tall; dioecious; shoots often appearing tufted with unexpanded axillary shoots, gray by having collapsed, balloonlike hairs (vesicular hairs). **Stems:** strongly ridged, with ridges descending from each leaf, brittle, young stems green with vesicular hairs and rose-colored ridges, aging brownish with straw-colored to golden-colored ridges. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, short-petiolate, without stipules; petiole typically < 1 mm long; blade lanceolate to elliptic or narrowly triangular with spreading basal teeth or lobes (\pm hastate), 4–26 \times 1.5–7 mm, entire to irregularly several-toothed on margins with the widest teeth or lobes near base, acute at tip, with only midrib conspicuous and slightly raised on lower surface. **Inflorescences:** panicles of sessile flower clusters on spikelike branchlets (glomes = clusters of staminate or pistillate flowers), terminal on lateral shoots, vesicular. **Staminate inflorescence:** staminate glomes terminal on lateral shoots, panicle mostly < 60 mm long, lateral glomes spaced along rachis by having conspicuous internodes between lower glomes, lateral glomes sessile, spheroid to ovoid, glomes 3–4(–5.5) mm diameter, many-flowered, lacking bracts; flower bases sticking together by exudates of colorless vesicular hairs. **Staminate flower:** radial, 2 mm diameter; **perianth** calyxlike, 5-lobed; tube cup-shaped, green; lobes ovate, to 1.5 mm long and > tube, green with thinner, membranous margins, densely vesicular, the hairs \pm colorless; **stamens** 5, opposite perianth lobes, to 3 mm long, exserted 1 mm; filaments colorless; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.4 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** vestigial and sterile, if present conic, green. **Pistillate inflorescence:** pistillate glomes \pm umbel-like on very short lateral shoot, glome sessile or subsessile, 1–several-flowered, with each pistillate flower subtended and enclosed by 2 bracteoles; bracteole at anthesis \pm rhombic, fused above midpoint to widest point, free along top edge. **Pistillate flower:** **perianth** absent; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, transversely fusiform, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style ascending, 0.4–1.3 mm long, colorless, 2-branched, the branches exserted, stigmatic, appearing shorter than the terminal tooth of fruiting bracteoles as bracteoles enlarge during fruit development. **Fruit:** utricle hidden by 2 fused bracteoles; utricle 1-seeded, thin and transparent, with persistent style; bracteoles broadly torch-shaped compressed and with tapered base, at maturity 5–7 \times 4–5.5 mm, boney, and fleshy, \pm 3-toothed on top edge. **Seed:** lenticular hatchet-shaped, 1.6–1.8 mm long, chestnut-brown, asymmetric with point at radicle end. Early August–late October.

Naturalized. Shrub growing in hard soil of scrubland behind beach at Malibu Lagoon, in mixed stands with *Atriplex lentiformis* and *Eriogonum giganteum*, along a trail to the beach near the edge of coastal salt marsh and just about the highest tide. *Atriplex amnicola* was first recognized at that location at the beginning of the century and has been observed now elsewhere along the southern California coastline, because it does set seed.

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