

**Rare Plant Status Review:**

***Atriplex pusilla***

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*Atriplex pusilla* is a small annual herb in the Amaranthaceae (previously in the Chenopodiaceae) that is documented in California from only a single historic occurrence in the Long Valley area of Mono County. There is also a reported occurrence "around hot springs in the Modoc Plateau". Outside of California, *A. pusilla* is known from Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon. *A. pusilla* is currently on CNPS' list of taxa postponed during development of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the CNPS *Inventory*. In 1999, no one really knew anything about this plant and, due to this lack of knowledge, review of its status was postponed and it was not added to the CNPS *Inventory*. Information about this plant is still lacking; however, now that two old herbarium collections have come forward to document its occurrence in California, CNPS and CNDDDB feel more comfortable with listing this plant.

In April of 2007, *A. pusilla* was nominated for inclusion in the *Inventory* by Dean Taylor and later by Glenn Clifton. Dean Taylor mentions that this plant has a similar distribution to *Micromonolepis pusilla*, which was just recently added to CNPS List 2 and so *A. pusilla* should be afforded the same status as *M. pusilla*. Glenn Clifton mentions that it is supposedly known from around hot springs in Modoc Plateau but that he has not yet seen it. Due to the fact that currently this plant is only known from two collections from Long Valley in 1937 and 1938, as well as from the Modoc Plateau area (but with no known specimen to document this), CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that this plant be added to the CNPS *Inventory* as a List 2 plant. We currently know of no threats to this plant and are therefore leaving off a threat rank until more information becomes available regarding the type and level of threats in California

**Recommended Actions**

*Atriplex pusilla*

CNPS: Add to CNPS List 2

CNDDDB: G5 S1

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**Proposed CNPS *Inventory* Record**

***Atriplex pusilla* (Torr. ex S. Wats.) S. Wats.**

Amaranthaceae

smooth saltbush

**List 2**

Mono, Lassen?; Idaho, Nevada, Oregon

488C (Fales Hot Springs/3811934)

Great Basin scrub, marshes or swamps (hot springs) / alkali; 1300-2000 meters.

Annual herb, blooms June-September

Need quads for Lassen Co. Collections old; need field surveys. See *Bot. King Expl.* 291 (1871) for original description and *Proc. Amer. Acad.* 9: 110 (1874) for revised nomenclature.