

# On *Atriplex canescens* (*Chenopodiaceae* s. str./ *Amaranthaceae* s. l.) in Tunisia: nomenclatural and morphological notes on its infraspecific variability

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**Key words:** *Atriplex*, halophytic flora, lectotypification, new record, *nomen invalidum*, *Shenzhen Code*.

**Ključne besede:** *Atriplex*, halofitska flora, lektotipifikacija, nova nahajališča, *nomen invalidum*, *Shenzhen Kodeks*.

## Abstract

Populations of *Atriplex canescens* var. *gigantea* were found in Lamta, Bouficha-Enfidha (central Tunisia), and Medenine (southern Tunisia). Literature data concerning the presence of this species in Tunisia are contradictory but now our data confirm its occurrence in the country. On the other hand, this variety is reported in the present paper for the first time both in Tunisia and in North Africa in general. Morphological characters and ecological data are presented, as well as notes about patterns of infraspecific variability of *A. canescens*. Nomenclatural notes on infraspecific names in *A. canescens*, as well as on the closely related species *A. garrettii*, are provided. The types of the names *A. canescens* var. *laciniata*, *A. canescens* var. *macilenta*, *A. garrettii*, *Obione occidentalis* var. *angustifolia*, and *Pterochiton occidentale*, that in earlier publications were erroneously considered to be holotypes, are in fact lectotypes (for most of taxa) under Art. 9.10 of the ICN. Isolectotypes were found at CAS (*A. canescens* var. *laciniata* and *A. canescens* var. *macilenta*), GH (*A. canescens* var. *macilenta*), and YU (*Atriplex nuttallii*).

## Izveček

Populacije *Atriplex canescens* var. *gigantea* smo našli pri mestih Lamta, Bouficha-Enfidha (srednja Tunizija) in Medenine (južna Tunizija). Literaturni podatki o pojavljanju te vrste v Tuniziji so si nasprotujoči, z našimi podatki pa potrjujemo njeno pojavljanje v tej državi. V članku tudi prvič objavljamo pojavljanje te varietete v Tuniziji in severni Afriki na splošno. Predstavljamo morfološke značilnosti in ekološke podatke in tudi vzorec znotrajvrstne variabilnosti vrste *A. canescens*. Podajamo nomenklaturne opombe o poimenovanju taksonov na nivoju pod vrsto in tudi ozko sorodne vrste *A. garrettii*. Tipi imen *A. canescens* var. *laciniata*, *A. canescens* var. *macilenta*, *A. garrettii*, *Obione occidentalis* var. *angustifolia* in *Pterochiton occidentale*, ki so jih v predhodnih objavah napačno smatrali kot holotipi, so v bistvu lektotipi (za večino taksonov) po členu 9.10 Mednarodnega kodeksa nomenklature. Izolektotipe smo našli v herbarijih CAS (*A. canescens* var. *laciniata* in *A. canescens* var. *macilenta*), GH (*A. canescens* var. *macilenta*) in YU (*Atriplex nuttallii*).

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## 1. Introduction

*Atriplex* L. (*Chenopodiaceae*; placed in *Amaranthaceae* s. l. in APG IV 2016), is a genus of about 260 currently recognized species occurring mainly in arid and semi-arid regions of Eurasia, America, and Australia (Kühn 1993, Sukhorukov & Danin 2009, Kadereit et al. 2010, Brignone et al. 2016). The genus is monophyletic if defined so as to include *Obione* Gaertn., *Teutliopsis* (Dumort.) Čelak, and some other segregate genera (see, e.g., Kadereit et al. 2010).

The North African flora comprises at least 28 species of *Atriplex*, of which 15 occur in Tunisia (see Uotila 2011, SANBI 2012). The presence of *Atriplex canescens* (Pursh) Nutt. in Tunisia appears to be controversial. SANBI (2012), based on Francllet & Le Houérou (1971), reports this species as present in Tunisia, while Uotila (2011) indicates *A. canescens* in North Africa only from Egypt.

As part of ongoing studies on the nomenclature of the genus *Atriplex* (see e.g., Iamónico 2012, 2013, Iamónico & Sukhorukov 2014), and investigations of the Tunisian Flora (e.g., Sukhorukov et al. 2016, Iamónico & El Mokni 2017), we found a population certainly referable to *Atriplex canescens* s. l. thereby confirming its presence in Tunisia. Further notes on the nomenclature and taxonomy of this species (that was correctly typified by McNeill et al. 1983: 553) are given.

## 2. Materials and methods

The work is based on an extensive field surveys, analysis of literature, and examination of specimens (about 100) and their digital images from the herbaria: CAS, JEPS, GH, HFLA, NY, RO, US, and YU (acronyms according to Thiers 2018+), and in the personal collection of R. El Mokni deposited in the Herbaria of the Faculty of Pharmacy of Monastir and of the personal Herbarium of El Mokni (not listed in *Index Herbariorum*, Thiers 2018+).

The articles of the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (hereafter abbreviated as ICN) cited throughout the text refer to the *Shenzhen Code* (Turland et al. 2018).

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Floristic data

*Atriplex canescens* is here confirmed as occurring in Central and Southern Tunisia (Lamta, and Bouficha-Enfida localities). In particular, we identified the plants as var. *gigantea* Welsh & Stutz (in Welsh 1984: 189), which is a

new addition to the Tunisian flora and appears to be the only variety currently occurring in Tunisia.

*Atriplex canescens* is morphologically similar and related to *A. garrettii*, the species not occurring in Tunisia (Uotila 2011), from which it differs in both vegetative (height of plants, and width of leaf blades) and generative characters (presence of teeth in fruiting bract-like).

### 3.2. Nomenclatural notes

#### 3.2.1. *Atriplex canescens* var. *laciniata*

Parish (in Jepson 1914: 442) provided a short diagnosis of *Atriplex canescens* var. *laciniata*, and also stated the provenance (“Caleb, Colorado Desert... Also occurring in the Mohave Desert”) and cited two syntypes: “*Parish* 8256”, and “*Jepson* 5171a”. Consequently (Art. 9.4), lectotypification is necessary, and a lectotype should be selected from the syntypes cited in the protologue.

Welsh & Crompton (1995: 324), for *Atriplex canescens* var. *laciniata*, wrote: “Type: California, Imperial Co., ‘Plants of Southern California, Salton Basin, Caleb. About 200 feet below sea level. No. 8256. Coll. S. B. Parish. Oct 11. 1911’; holotype UC JEPS!; isotype GH!”. Under ICN Art. 9.10, Welsh & Crompton’s use of the term “holotype” is an error to be corrected to lectotype, whereas the GH specimen is an isolectotype. In addition, we traced a third specimen (second isolectotype) at CAS (code 0027906). The indication of “UC JEPS!” in Welsh & Crompton (1995) can be considered as citation of a single herbarium, not two (JEPS, and UC) [probably it is just an indication that the Jepson Herbarium (JEPS) belongs to the University of California (UC)]. So, no second-step lectotypification is needed.

#### 3.2.2. *Atriplex canescens* var. *macilenta*

The protologue of *Atriplex canescens* var. *macilenta* Parish (in Jepson 1914: 442) consists of a short diagnosis and the citation of one type gathering (syntype, Art. 9.6): “Holtville, Colorado Desert, *Parish* 8258”.

Welsh & Crompton (1995: 324) reported for *Atriplex canescens* var. *laciniata* the following type information: “Type: California, Imperial Co... Plants of Southern California. Salton Basin. Bluffs of Alamo River, Halbartlc. About 15 feet below Sea Level, S. B. Parish 82.58, Oct 18, 1812”; holotype UC JEPS!; isotypes DS (“Callexico”), CHI, POM!”. According to ICN Art. 9.10, Welsh & Crompton’s use of the term “holotype” is an error to be corrected to lectotype, while the DS, CHI, and POM specimens are isolectotypes. In addition, we traced two further isolectotypes at CAS (code 0027907), and GH (code 00036872). As in the previous case indication

of *Atriplex canescens* var. *laciniata*, the indication “UC JEPS!” can be considered as citation of a single herbarium, not two (JEPS, and UC), so no second-step lectotypification is needed.

### 3.2.3. *Atriplex garrettii* s. l.

Rydberg (1912: 312) described *Atriplex garrettii* through a detail diagnosis, also comparing the species with *A. canescens*, *A. confertifolia* (Torr. & Frém.) S. Watson (≡ *Obione confertifolia* Torr. & Frém.), *A. occidentalis* (Torr. & Frém.) D. Dietr. (≡ *Pterochiton occidentale* Torr. & Frém.), and *A. tetraptera* (Benth.) Rydb. (≡ *Obione tetraptera* Benth.); moreover, he reported the provenance (“UTAH. Vicinity of Moab”), a date (“July 1, 1911”), the collector, the collector number and the herbarium [“Rydberg & Garrett 8465 (type, in herb. N. Y. Bot. Garden)”].

Sanderson & Stutz (2001: 78) reported “Type: Valley of the Rio Grande from El Paso to 40 miles below San Elcario, Wright 1742 (lectotype NY)”. According to the Art. 7.11 of ICN “... designation of a type is achieved only ..., on or after 1 January 2001, if the typification statement includes the phrase “designated here” (hic designatus) or an equivalent”. As a consequence, the lectotype indication by Sanderson & Stutz (l.c.) cannot be considered as valid.

Sanderson & Stutz (2001: 79), and Welsh & Crompton (1995: 326) cited same specimens as holotype (at NY) and isotypes [at US, and UT; Welsh & Crompton (l.c.) also at GH] of *Atriplex garrettii* [indication by Welsh & Crompton (l.c.) is “Type: Utah, Crand Co., Vicinity of Moab, July 1–2, 1911, P. A. Rydberg & A. O. Garrett 8465; holotype NY!; isotypes GH!, US!, UT!”]. Both Sanderson & Stutz (2001: 79) and Welsh & Crompton (1995: 326) correctly denoted the type categories for type specimens of this taxon.

Welsh & Crompton (1995: 326) also proposed the new combination *Atriplex garrettii* var. *navajoensis* (C. A. Hanson) Welsh & Crompton, pointing out morphological differences between it and var. *garrettii* in both vegetative and generative characters.

### 3.2.4. *Atriplex nuttallii*

Watson (1874: 116) seemingly proposed *Atriplex nuttallii* as a replacement name for *A. canescens* (Pursh) Nutt. by the citation of “*Atriplex canescens*. Nuttall, Genera, 1. 197; not of James”. However, Watson’s reference to James for *Atriplex canescens* means the exclusion of its type. As a consequence, *A. nuttallii* is not an illegitimate replacement name of *Atriplex canescens*. A same conclusion can

be made concerning the second synonym cited by Watson (1874: 116), i.e. “*Obione canescens*. Moquin, Enum. Chenop. 74” which was not correctly cited, meaning “*Obione canescens sensu* Moq. non *O. canescens* (Pursh) Moq.”. As regard Watson’s synonym “*Atriplex Gordoni*. Hook. Pl. Geyer in Lond. Jour. Bot. 5. 261?”, his name is to be intended as a correction of “*gardnerii*” for *Obione gardnerii* Moq. since collector of type material was Gordon not Gardner (see also McNeill & al. 1983: 553–554). However, although Moquin’s error was not nor orthographic neither typographic, original spelling should be retained. As *Atriplex gardnerii* (Moq.) A. Dietr. (≡ *Obione gardnerii* Moq. – *Atriplex gordonii sensu* Watson) is legitimate, *Atriplex nuttallii* is superfluous (Art. 52.2). McNeill & al. (l.c.) typified the Watson’ name on a specimen deposited at K. Stutz & Sanderson (1998: 203) cited a GH specimen (part of the original material) as “lectotype”. Although their lectotypification is correct, it is superseded by those of McNeill & al. (l.c.), and GH specimen is to be considered as a syntype. Moreover, we found two further specimens that can be considered as part of original material (YU068871, and YU068874) bearing plants collected, respectively, by E. Hall & J. P. Harbour and by S. Watson in United States before 1874 (original collection numbers are 308 and 981, as indicated in the catalogue). These YU specimens are syntypes too.

### 3.2.5. *Calligonum canescens*

*Calligonum canescens* was validly proposed by Pursh (1813: 370) by a diagnosis, the provenance (“In the plains of the Missouri, near the Big-bend”), and the citation “v. s. [= vidi sicco] in Herb. Lewis”.

Sanderson & Stutz (2001: 78) reported, as “holotype”, a specimen preserved at PH, and collected by Lewis in Big bend of the Missouri (South Dakota) in 21 september 1804. Based on Art. 9.10 this holotype indication should be corrected to lectotype. However, previously McNeill & al. (1983: 553) correctly designated as lectotype at the same PH, and their lectotypification is to be considered as valid.

### 3.2.6. *Obione occidentalis* var. *angustifolia* and *A. angustior*

*Obione occidentalis* var. *angustifolia* was described by Torrey (1859: 184) through a very short diagnosis (“foliis angusto-linearibus vel lanceolato-linearibus”); some specimens (syntypes, Art. 9.6) were also cited (“Valley of the Rio Grande, from El Paso to 40 miles below San Elcario Bigelow, Wright. On the Gila; Thurber (No. 1742, Wright”).

Sanderson & Stutz (2001: 78) reported “Type: Valley of the Rio Grande from El Paso to 40 miles below San Elcario, *Wright* 1742 (lectotype NY)”. According to the Art. 7.11 of ICN “... designation of a type is achieved only ..., on or after 1 January 2001, if the typification statement includes the phrase “designated here” (hic designatus) or an equivalent”. As a consequence, the lectotype indication by Sanderson & Stutz (l.c.) cannot be considered as valid.

Welsh & Crompton (1995: 332) for *Obione occidentalis* var. *angustifolia*, wrote: “Type: Field No. 394. Obione, Sandy ridge on Rio Grande, 3–5 ft tall, much branching, June 17, 1852. Rio Grande below El Paso Texas. [*Wright* 1742 = 394”; holotype NY!; isotypes GH! (3 sheets). Under Art. 9.10 of the ICN, Welsh & Crompton’s use of the term “holotype” is an error to be corrected to lectotype (NY specimen), while the GH specimen is an isolectotype.

Cockerell (in Scudder & Cockerell 1902: 7) validly proposed *Atriplex angustior* as a new name for *Obione canescens* var. *angustifolia* Torr. (see Art. 11.2).

According to Welsh (2003) and Welsh & Crompton (1995), this varietal name is to be regarded as a synonym of var. *canescens*.

### 3.2.7. *Pterochiton occidentale*

Torrey & Frémont (1845: 318) described *Pterochiton occidentale* through a detailed diagnosis, also giving the habitat (“... vegetation of saline soils of the west ...”). The authors also stated “The precise locality of this plant we cannot indicate, as the label was illegible; but it was probably from the borders of the Great Salt Lake”.

Welsh & Crompton (1995: 333) cited the following type information for *Pterochiton occidentale*: “Type: *Pterochiton occidentale* Torr. & Frem. n Fremont, probably 10 September 1843 [locality data are missing from the type specimen] (holotype NY!; microfiche BRY!)”. Welsh & Crompton (l.c.) correctly denoted the type categories for type specimens of this taxon. We here consider the Welsh & Crompton’s statement as a lectotypification.

## 3.3. Taxonomic treatment

The analysis of literature, herbarium investigations, and comparison of the protologues allowed to correct the previous holotype statements proposed by Welsh & Crompton (1995) to lectotypes for all the *Atriplex* names investigated in the present paper. A nomenclatural treatment of *A. canescens* s. lat. (four varieties), and *A. garrettii* s. lat. (two varieties) follows.

*Atriplex canescens* (Pursh) Nutt., Gen. N. Amer. Pl. 1: 197. 1818 var. *canescens* ≡ *Calligonum canescens* Pursh, Fl. Amer. Sept. 2: 370. 1813 ≡ *Obione canescens* (Pursh) Moq., *Chenopod. Monogr. Enum.*: 74. 1840 ≡ *Pterochiton canescens* (Pursh) Nutt., J. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, ser. 2 1: 184. 1848. – Lectotype (designated by McNeill & al. 1983: 553): South Dakota, Big bend of the Missouri, 21. IX. 1804, *Lewis s.n.* (PH-LC-34! [right-hand fragment], image of the lectotype available at <http://www.plantsystematics.org/reveal/pbio/LnC/atricane.html>).

= *Atriplex nuttallii* S. Watson, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 9: 116. 1874 – Lectotype (designated by McNeill & al. 1983: 554): Saskatchewan, Prairie, assez rare, 18. IX. 1857, *Bourgeau s.n.* (K) – Syntypes [U.S.A., Nevada, VII. 1868, *Watson 981* (GH-00036881); U.S.A., Nevada, Unionville Valley, VI. 1868, *Watson 981* (YU-068874!], image available at [http://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.yu068874?searchUri=scope%3Dplants%26so%3Dps\\_group\\_by\\_genus\\_species%2Basc%26Query%3DSpecies%3Anuttallii%2520AND%2520Genus%3AAtriplex%2520AND%2520%28raw\\_type%3Avisual%2520OR%2520ResourceType%3Aspecimens%29](http://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.yu068874?searchUri=scope%3Dplants%26so%3Dps_group_by_genus_species%2Basc%26Query%3DSpecies%3Anuttallii%2520AND%2520Genus%3AAtriplex%2520AND%2520%28raw_type%3Avisual%2520OR%2520ResourceType%3Aspecimens%29)); U.S.A., Colorado and Nebraska, 1862, *Hall & Harbour 308* (YU-068871!], image available at [http://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.yu068871?searchUri=scope%3Dplants%26so%3Dps\\_group\\_by\\_genus\\_species%2Basc%26Query%3DSpecies%3Anuttallii%2520AND%2520Genus%3AAtriplex%2520AND%2520%28raw\\_type%3Avisual%2520OR%2520ResourceType%3Aspecimens%29](http://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.yu068871?searchUri=scope%3Dplants%26so%3Dps_group_by_genus_species%2Basc%26Query%3DSpecies%3Anuttallii%2520AND%2520Genus%3AAtriplex%2520AND%2520%28raw_type%3Avisual%2520OR%2520ResourceType%3Aspecimens%29)).

= *Atriplex canescens* var. *occidentalis* (Torrey & Frémont) S.L. Welsh & Stutz, Great Basin Naturalist. 44: 189. 1984 ≡ *Pterochiton occidentale* Torr. & Frém., Rep. Calif.: 318. 1845 ≡ *Atriplex occidentale* (Torr. & Frém.) D. Dietr., Syn. Pl. 5: 537. 1852 ≡ *Obione occidentale* (Torr. & Frém.) Moq., Prodr. [DC] 13(2): 112–113. 1849 – Lectotype [designated by Welsh & Crompton 1995: 333 (as “holotype”, here corrected according to the Art. 9.10)]: U.S.A. California, probably 10. X. 1943, *s.coll. s.n.* (NY-0008506!], image of the lectotype available at [http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/vh/specimen\\_details.php?irn=719719](http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/vh/specimen_details.php?irn=719719)).

= *Atriplex canescens* var. *angustifolia* (Torr.) S. Watson, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 9: 121. 1874 ≡ *Obione canescens* var. *angustifolia* Torr., Rep. U. S. Mex. Bound. 2(1): 184. 1859 ≡ *Atriplex angustior* Cockerell, Proc. Davenport Acad. Nat. Sci. 9: 7. 1902 – Lectotype [designated by Welsh & Crompton 1995: 332 (as “holotype”, here corrected according to the Art. 9.10)]: U.S.A. Texas, Rio Grande below El Paso, Sandy ridge on Rio Grande, 17. VI. 1852, *Wright 1742* (NY-00006460!],

image of the lectotype available at [http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/vh/specimen\\_details.php?irn=65599](http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/vh/specimen_details.php?irn=65599).

– Isolectotypes GH-00037218, GH-00037218, images of the isolectotypes available respectively at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/huhwebimages/40F64A55E63F4B1/type/full/37218.jpg>, and <https://s3.amazonaws.com/huhwebimages/6837764347BE4E6/type/full/37219.jpg>.

– *Obione canescens* (Pursh) Torr., Rep. Exped. Rocky Mts.: 95. 1845, isonym (Art. 6.3 Note 2).

– *Atriplex heterophylla* Nutt. ex Moq., Prodr. [DC] 13(2): 112–113. 1849, *nom. inval.* (Art. 36.1b).

– *Atriplex fruticosa* Nutt. ex Moq., Prodr. [DC] 13(2): 112–113. 1849, *nom. inval.* (Art. 36.1b).

– *Lophocaria spinosa* Nutt. ex Moq., Prodr. [DC] 13(2): 112–113. 1849, *nom. inval.* (Art. 36.1b).

– *Pterocaria spinosa* Nutt. ex Moq., Prodr. [DC] 13(2): 112–113. 1849, *nom. inval.* (Art. 36.1b).

– *Atriplex canescens* (Pursh) Brandege, Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci. ser. 2, 2: 200. 1889, isonym (Art. 6.3 Note 2).

*Atriplex canescens* var. *gigantea* S.L. Welsh & Stutz, Great Basin Naturalist. 44: 189. 1984 (Fig. 1) – Holotype: U.S.A. Utah, Haub County, Lynndyl sand dunes, 08 september 09-1965, *Welsh & Moore 5126* (BRY-0000376), image of the holotype available at <http://intermountainbiota.org/portal/collections/individual/index.php?occid=3859583&clid=0>. – Isotype NY-00006452!, image of the isotype available at [http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/vh/specimen\\_details.php?irn=278081](http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/vh/specimen_details.php?irn=278081)

**Description:** Shrubs, dioecious, 10–18 dm, not armed. Leaves persistent, alternate, sessile or shortly petioled (petiole 1–4 mm long), blade mostly linear, (16-)20-40(-45) × (4-)5-6(-7) mm, margin entire, apex obtuse, green, pubescent of both surfaces. Staminate flowers arranged in clusters (about 3 mm wide), the clusters forming panicles-like structures (up to 15 cm long). Pistillate flowers arranged in panicles-like inflorescence, 8–14 cm long. Fruiting bracts-like cover 15–30 mm wide, on stipes up to 8 mm long, with 4 wings extend-



**Figure 1:** *Atriplex canescens* var. *gigantea* at Medenine, southern Tunisia (photo by R. El Mokni). A) details of leaves.

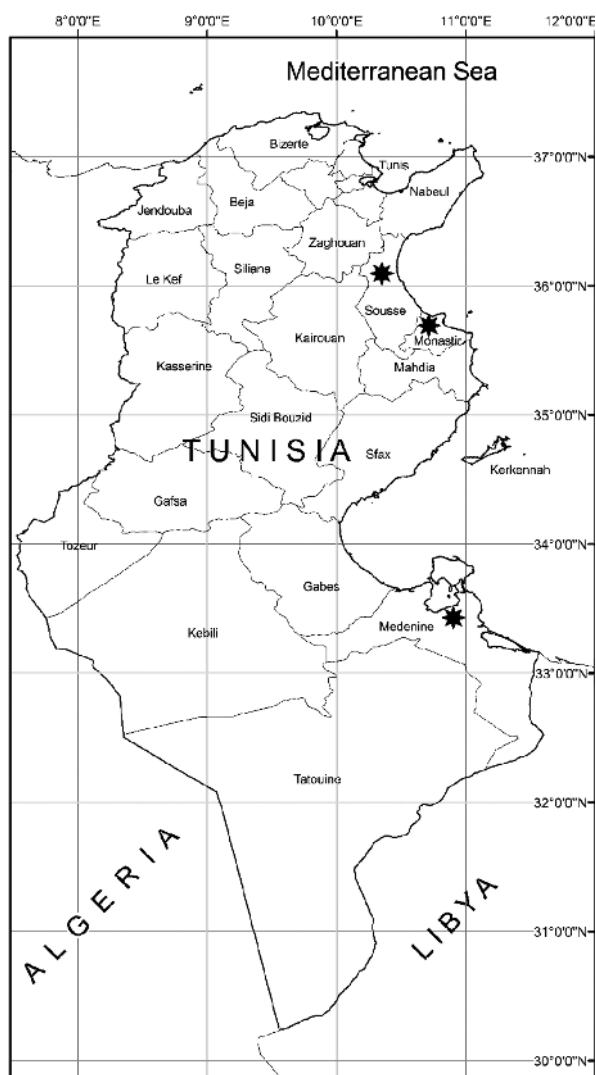
**Slika 1:** *Atriplex canescens* var. *gigantea* pri mestu Medenine, južna Tunizija (foto R. El Mokni). A) podrobnosti listov.

ing the bract length, wings being irregularly dentate (apical teeth with an erect awn, 2–4 mm long), with smooth or reticulate surfaces. Seeds 1.5–2.5 mm wide.

**Phenology:** flowering and fruting times October–December.

**Habitat:** roadsides and cultivated land (central Tunisia), rehabilitated steppes (southern Tunisia), at 0–16 m a.s.l.

**Distribution in Tunisia:** 3 populations (22–24 individuals in total) were found in the following localities: Lamta (5–6 individuals covering an area of about 100 mq), Medenine (2–3 individuals covering about 60 mq), Bouficha-Enfida (22 individuals covering about 60 mq) (Fig. 2).



**Figure 2:** Distribution map of *Atriplex canescens* var. *gigantea* in Tunisia (\*).  
**Slika 2:** Karta razširjenosti taksona *Atriplex canescens* var. *gigantea* v Tuniziji (\*).

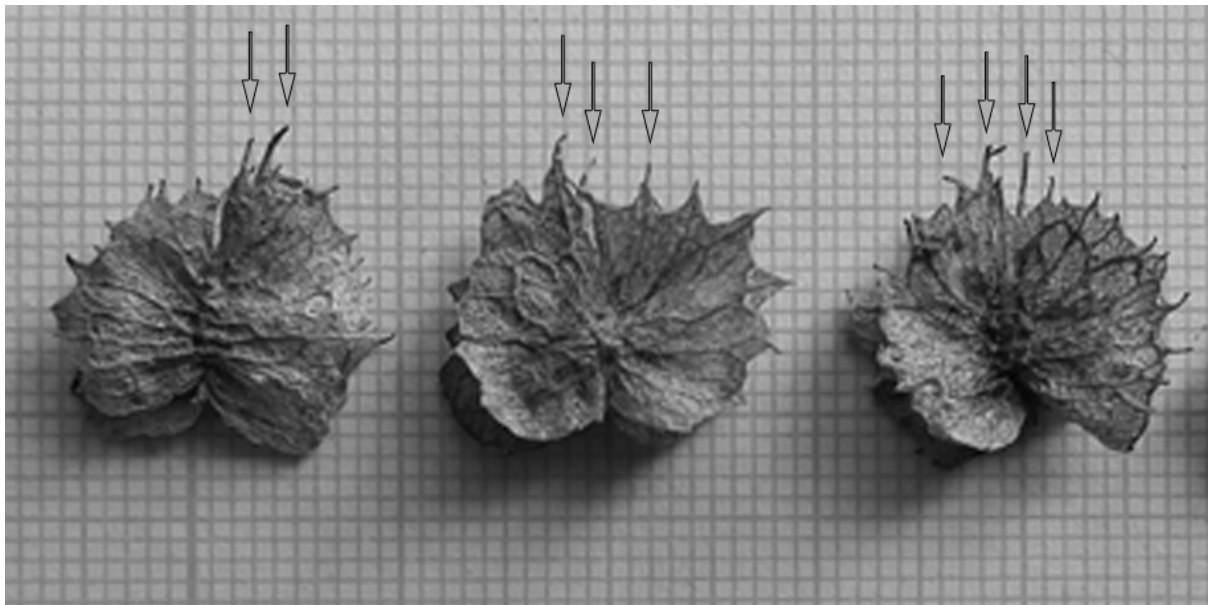
**Native range and status of naturalization in Tunisia:**

*Atriplex canescens* s.lat. (four varieties recognized by Welsh 2004) is a neophyte species native to N-America and Mexico, while it is an alien in Africa (SANBI 2012), western and south-eastern Australia (Atlas of Living Australia 2016), eastern Asia (see e.g., Freitag et al. 2001), and Eastern Mediterranean area (Israel/Palestine: A. Sukhorukov, pers. obs.).

The three populations of *A. canescens* var. *gigantea* discovered in Tunisia (see above “*Distribution in Tunisia*”) were first observed in 2015 (last observations in January 2017). According to Pyšek et al. (2002), *A. canescens* should be treated as a casual alien species in Tunisia. However, in 2015 the areas of occupancy were about the same of those observed later, so plants would have occurred also before 2015. Moreover, if we consider that 1) areas of occupancy are wide (60–100 mq), and 2) plants are perennial (and so they remain alive for more than two years), we can propose *A. canescens* as a naturalized species.

**Taxonomic notes:** on the basis of the descriptions given by Welsh (2004), the plants discovered in Tunisia clearly refer to *Atriplex canescens* var. *gigantea* showing the following characters: high of plants 10–18 dm, width of leaves blades (4-)5-6(-7) mm, margins of the fruiting bracts-like cover irregularly dentate (Fig. 3), width of the fruiting bracts-like cover 15–30 mm. An interesting character, which is not mentioned by Welsh (2004) in *Flora of North America, North of Mexico*, is the apex of the apical teeth in fruiting bracts-like cover, which are awned in the Tunisian plants (awns 2–4 mm long) (Fig. 3). Actually, the types (lecto- and iso-) of the var. *canescens* do not show this feature, while one of the holotype of the var. *gigantea* (BRY-0000376) bears two pieces of a plant with at least some fruiting bracts-like cover having the apical teeth awned. Our description so amends that reported in the North American flora.

**Specimina visa: Tunisia:** Monastir (Lamta, Center east), small population in the coastal road to Bouhjar, 35°40’38” N, 10°52’44” E, 0–1 m a.s.l., 09. XI. 2015, *R. El Mokni s.n.* (*Herb. Univ. Monastir*). Medenine (El Fjè, South east), sporadic specimens in some rehabilitated steppes, 33°29’59” N, 10°38’29” E, 14–16 m a.s.l., 18. X. 2016, *R. El Mokni s.n.* (HFLA, *Herb. El Mokni*). Sousse (Bouficha-Enfidha, Center east), along some edges of *Lycium* on roadsides, 36°22’08” N, 10°30’40” E, 11–13 m a.s.l., 06. I. 2017, *R. El Mokni s.n.* (*Herb. El Mokni*).



**Figure 3:** Details of fruiting bracts-like cover in *Atriplex canescens* var. *gigantea* (from a specimen collected at Lamta, central Tunisia; photo by R. El Mokni). Arrows indicate the awns of apical teeth.

**Slika 3:** Podrobnosti plodečih podpornih listov pri *Atriplex canescens* var. *gigantea* (pri primerku, nabranem pri mestu Lamta, osrednja Tunizija; foto R. El Mokni). Puščice kažejo rese vršnih zobcev.

*Atriplex canescens* var. *laciniata* Parish in Jepson, Fl. Calif. 1: 442. 1914 – Lectotype [designated by Welsh & Crompton 1995: 324 (as "holotype", here corrected to lectotype according to the Art. 9.10)]: U.S.A. California, Salton Basin, Caleb, 11. X. 1912, *Parish 8256* (JEPS-8934!, image of the lectotype available at <http://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.jeps8934>); isolectotypes CAS-0027906! (image available at <http://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.cas0027906>), and GH-00036871! (image available at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/huhwebimages/A4D594885C90455/type/full/36871.jpg>).

*Atriplex canescens* var. *macilenta* Pursh in Jepson, Fl. Calif. 1: 442. 1914 – Lectotype [designated by Welsh & Crompton 1995: 324 (as "holotype", here corrected according to the Art. 9.10)]: U.S.A. California, Salton Basin, Bluffs of Alamo River, Holtville, 18. X. 1912, *Parish 8258* (JEPS-2762!, image of the lectotype available at <http://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.jeps2762>); isolectotypes CAS-0027907! (image available at <http://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.cas0027907>), DS (*vide* Welsh & Crompton 1995: 324), GH-00036872! (image available at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/huhwebimages/1CEB9F6201474A4/type/full/36872.jpg>), and POM (*vide* Welsh & Crompton 1995: 324).

*Atriplex garrettii* Rydb., Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 39(7): 312. 1912 var. *garrettii* ≡ *Atriplex canescens* subsp. *garrettii* (Rydb.) H.M. Hall & Clem., Publ. Carnegie Inst. Wash. 326: 344. 1923 ≡ *Atriplex canescens* var. *garrettii* (Rydb.) L.D. Benson, Amer. J. Bot. 30(3): 236. 1943 – Lectotype [designated by Welsh & Crompton 1995: 326 (as "holotype", here corrected according to the Art. 9.10)]: U.S.A., Utah, Moab and vicinity, 01. VII. 1911, *Rydberg & Garrett 8465* (NY-00006433!, image available at [http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/vh/specimen\\_details.php?irn=694092](http://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/vh/specimen_details.php?irn=694092)); isolectotypes US-00102603!, image available at <http://collections.nmnh.si.edu/search/botany/>; UT (*vide* Welsh & Crompton 1995: 324).

*Atriplex garrettii* var. *navajoensis* (C.A. Hanson) S. L. Welsh & Crompton, Great Basin Naturalist. 55: 326. 1995 ≡ C.A. Hanson, Stud. Syst. Bot. 1: 3. 1962 – Holotype: U.S.A., Arizona, Coconino County, E side of Navajo Bridge, 21. VII. 1971, *Hanson 388* (BRY, isotypes GH-00036880!, and RSA-0002451!, image of the isolectotypes available respectively at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/huhwebimages/900056079E854B6/type/full/36880.jpg>, and <http://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.rsa0002451?searchUri=plantName%3D%2522Atriplex%2Bnavajoensis%2522%26syn%3D1>).



### 3.4. Diagnostic key for *Atriplex canescens* s. l. and *A. garrettii*

A diagnostic key for 4 varieties of *A. canescens*, and 2 varieties of *A. garrettii* is provided below.

1. Leaves > 8 mm wide, bracts-like cover tip with or without teeth ..... 2  
– Leaves up to 8 mm wide; bracts-like cover tip without lateral teeth ..... 3
2. Plants 2–6 dm tall; leaves up to 9 in the first flowering branch; staminate flower usually brown ..... *Atriplex garrettii* var. *garrettii*  
– Plants 5–10 dm tall; leaves ≥ 7 in the first flowering branch; staminate flower usually yellow ..... *Atriplex garrettii* var. *navajoensis*
3. Fruiting bracts-like cover dentate to entire, 8–25 mm wide ..... 4  
– Fruiting bracts-like cover dentate to lacinate, 5–10 mm wide ..... 5
4. Fruiting bracts-like cover < 12 mm wide ..... *Atriplex canescens* var. *canescens*  
– Fruiting bracts-like cover > 15 mm wide ..... *Atriplex canescens* var. *gigantea*
5. Shrubs 3–10 dm high, fruiting bracts-like cover 4–8 mm wide, dentate or lacinate ..... *Atriplex canescens* var. *macilentata*  
– Shrubs 10–20 dm high, fruiting bracts-like cover 8–11 mm wide, lacinate ..... *Atriplex canescens* var. *laciniata*

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