

## SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

### A new combination and a new species of Australian *Atriplex* (Chenopodiaceae).

The new combination and the new species are being published to allow their inclusion in the handbook for the flora of New South Wales.

#### (i) *Atriplex sturtii* S.W.L. Jacobs, nom. et stat. nov.

**BASIONYM:** *Atriplex leptocarpa* (as '*leptocarpum*') forma *minor* R.H. Anderson, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales 55: 499(1930).

**LECTOTYPE** (here designated): Tibooburra, O.E. Couch NSW 149928, 5.1913 (NSW).

This taxon was treated as *A. leptocarpa* var. *inermis* f. *minor* R.H. Anderson by Aellen, Bot Jahrb. Syst. 48: 362(1938).

**Description:** Spreading monoecious annual to 15 cm tall. Leaves petiolate, obovate to rhomboid, to 1.5 cm long, acute to obtuse, entire to sinuate. Flowers in axillary clusters. Fruiting bracteoles more or less cylindrical, with a stipe-like base and a flattened apex, 2–4 mm long obtuse. Appendages absent.

Plants belonging to this taxon form distinct populations, especially on the granite areas around Tibooburra and on, or around the margins of, claypans in the general area. No intermediates between *A. sturtii* and *A. leptocarpa* have been found and, while both grow in the general area, they do not appear to grow together.

This species is only known from the area where New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia adjoin. So far specimens have only been recorded from New South Wales and South Australia.

**SPECIMENS EXAMINED:** NEW SOUTH WALES: **North Far Western Plains:** approx. 58 miles [93 km] N. of Tibooburra, *Jacobs 132*, 8.11.1971; Tibooburra, *A. Morris 709*, 30.9.1921 (syntype); Tibooburra, *Johnson & Constable NSW 32049*, 7.6.1955. All specimens in NSW.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA: Lake Eyre Basin;** Coongie Lake, NNW. of Innamincka, *Briggs 4626*, 26.5.1972 (NSW, dupl. K, CANB, AD, PERTH).

The species is named after an early explorer in this region, Charles Sturt. This was listed as *Atriplex* sp.A in Jacobs and Pickard (1981:101).

#### (ii) *Atriplex nessorhina* S.W.L. Jacobs, sp. nov.

Species affinis *A. morrisii*, sed foliis angustioribus, parte inflato bracteolae minus ornato, parte superiore bracteolae lobo centrali elongato, differt.

**HOLOTYPE:** 1.6 km NW. "Janina" 29°58'S, 144°40'E, *J. Pickard 2403*, 1.8.1973 (NSW; Isotypes to be distributed: AD, PERTH, BRI, K).

Spreading annual or short-lived perennial herb to c. 30 cm tall. Stems glabrous or with scattered vesicular hairs. Leaves alternate, oblanceolate, up to 5 cm long and 1 cm wide, entire to serrate, tapering gradually into a poorly defined petiole, both surfaces covered with dense vesicular hairs. Inflorescences terminal or axillary, spike-like, consisting of 1 or more whorls of sessile to subsessile flowers, the whorls separated by internodes up to 1 cm long. Flowers unisexual, both sexes present in each whorl, the proportion of male flowers apparently increasing in the younger (upper) whorls of an inflorescence. Male flowers small (< 1 mm diameter) with a 5-lobed perianth and five stamens. Female flowers with two opposite bracteoles fused for about half their length, perianth absent. Bracteoles with a swollen appendage in the lower half overlapping the upper half, the margin of the appendage entire to spinose; upper half of the bracteoles 3-lobed, the centre lobe tapering into a flat bird-like beak, acute, 3–5 mm long, the two lateral lobes acute, c. 1 mm long. Ovary 1-seeded, the style 2-branched, fused for 0.25–0.5 mm, branches 1.5–2 mm long. Seed vertical, c. 2 mm wide, 1.75 mm high, brown-black.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Apparently confined, but quite common in, the North Far Western Plains and southern Queensland (P.G. Wilson pers. comm.). Common around low-lying or wet areas but often in dry areas on the dunes or lunettes around these areas.

**SPECIMENS EXAMINED:** NEW SOUTH WALES: **North Far Western Plains:** 62 miles [100 km] N. of Tibooburra, *Jacobs 127*, 8.11.1971; Tibooburra, *Couch NSW 149941*, 2.1913; 40 miles [64 km] E. of Tibooburra, *Jacobs 123*, 7.11.1971; S. of Tibooburra, 20°40'S, 142°25'E, *Jacobs 3115*, 11.5.1977; "Warinya", W. of Bourke, *Blaxell 600*, 5.11.1971; 3.2 km NW. of "Janina", *De Nardi 921, 921A*, 5.10.1971; 1.6 km NW. of "Janina", *Pickard 2403*, 1.8.1973; approx. 100 km W. of Bourke, *Jacobs 3411*, 13.11.1978; "Tero Creek", *Martensz 67/38*, 30.3.1967; 15 km NE. "Cobham", *Pickard 2377*, 25.8.1973; Utah Lake c. 55 km NW. Louth, *De Nardi 926, 929*, 5.10.1971 (dupl. of 926 to be distributed to AD, PERTH); 63 miles [100 km] SE. Wanaaring, *Mulham NSW 149939*, 18.4.1971; Mt Mulyah, *Moore 4594*, 7.12.1966; "Tongo", *De Nardi 898*, 3.10.1971; *Hitchcock* (NSW 149940), 11.1970; *Cunningham & Milthorpe 3404*, 23.4.1974; "Peery", *Stanly 1729 and Lawrie*, 22.11.1975. All specimens in NSW.

The species epithet is a reflection of the "common" name, "Donald Duck Saltbush"; from the Greek "nessa" (duck) and "rhinos" (beak or bill).

*A. nessorhina* differs from *A. morrisii* in its narrower leaves and in having fruiting bracteoles with an elongated central terminal lobe and a less ornate inflated lower portion.

In general appearance the fruiting bracteoles do not resemble any other known species. *A. nessorhina* is allied with *A. morrisii* because of the ornate, inflated lower portion of the bracteoles. *A. nessorhina* appears to be more common than *A. morrisii*. It was treated as *Atriplex* sp.C in *Jacobs & Pickard* (1981:101).

I thank Karen Wilson for providing the Latin diagnosis.

#### Reference

Jacobs, S.W.L. & J. Pickard (1981). 'Plants of New South Wales'. (Government Printer: Sydney) 226 pp.

Manuscript accepted: 23.11.1982

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