RECORD OF ATRIPLEX SEMIBACCATA R. BR. (CHENOPODIACEAE) IN IRAN

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Specimens of Atriplex semibaccata were collected in a natural habitat in Khuzestan province, Iran. As no former record of the species were observed in Iran, this record of the species form Iran is for the first time.

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Introduction

In a programme of collecting plants and establishment of Khuzestan herbarium, the specimens of an *Atriplex* species were collected. These specimens were later on named *Atriplex semibaccata*, which is a new record for the flora of Iran.

*Atriplex semibaccata* R. Br.

Khuzestan: Abadan, Mino Isl., 5 m, Salei & Howeizeh 3823.

Prostrate subshrub, tufted, ca. 1 m across. Leaves grey greenish above, mealy white below, 1-2 cm long, oblong or lanceolate, undulate or toothed along the margin. Flowers in small clusters in the leaf axils. Fruits 3-4 mm long, more or less rhomboid, red and succulent when fresh; valves toothed, connate up to the middle.

*Atriplex semibaccata* was mentioned in Flora Iranica (Hedge 1997, p. 87) as a possibly introduced plant in Flora Iranica area.

The species is native in Australia but it seems it has been introduced to SW. Asia. It has also been recorded from Palaestine as a probably introduced and subspontaneous plant (Zohary 1966, p. 150). In our area it seems to be naturalized and looks rather a wild plant.

References
