Atriplex lentiformis (Torrey) S. Watson, BIG SALTBUSH, COAST SALTBUSH. Shrub, evergreen, somewhat halophytic or not, mostly unarmed, much-branched, rounded, 100–250+ cm tall, width ≥ height; dioecious and monoecious; shoots with grayish green leaves, when young with fine, dense layer of bladderlike hairs (vesicular), the hairs when dry ± scaly or scurfy. **Stems:** ridged (aging cylindric), with ridge descending from each leaf, light green becoming purplish red and ± scaly to scurfy. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole 8–9 mm long; blade ovate to slightly lobed at base (hastate), 9–58 × 5–41 mm, broadly tapered to subtruncate at base, entire and often wavy on margins or subhastately lobed, rounded at tip, pinnately veined with midrib raised on upper surface and principal veins raised on lower surface, at maturity scurfy. **Inflorescences:** panicles of sessile flower clusters on spikelike branchlets (glomes = clusters of staminate or pistillate flowers), when terminal to 400 mm long with 2−14 glomes per branchlet, and with axillary spikes of glomes, if monoecious staminate portion of inflorescence mostly above pistillate portion, but individual spikelike branchlets may have both staminate and pistillate glomes (glomes sometimes mixed), bracteate, axes densely and finely vesicular. **Staminate inflorescence:** staminate glomes spaced along rachis, glome sessile, subspheroid, 1–2.5 mm across, 4−12-flowered, subtended by an obscure bract, the bract narrowly elliptic to oblong, mostly < 1 × 0.5 mm, often shriveled. **Staminate flower:** ca. 3 mm across; **perianth** calyxlike, 5-lobed; lobes cupped and ovate to oblanceolate or oblong, 0.8–1.1 × 0.35–0.65 mm, yellowish or turning reddish with paler membranous margins, acute or rounded at tip, densely vesicular; **stamens** 5, opposite perianth lobes, fused at base into ring for ca. 0.2 mm; filaments cylindric, 1–1.4 mm long, whitish, drying flat; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, 0.5–0.6 mm long, light yellow with light reddish along line of dehiscence, sacs oblong and attached by short connective at top, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** minute and sterile. **Pistillate inflorescence:** pistillate glomes initially spaced but becoming congested during fruit development, glome sessile or short-stalked (< 0.7 mm long), 2−13-flowered, bracteate with each pistillate flower subtended and enclosed by 2 bracteoles; bract subtending glome leaflike to lanceolate, < 10 × 5 mm; bracteoles subtending pistillate flower at anthesis ovate to rhombic, 0.5–1.2 mm long, greenish but darker on margins, enlarging 3–8× in fruit. **Pistillate flower: perianth** absent; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1, 1–1.5 mm long; ovary superior, erect, compressed-ovoid to compressed-obovoid, 0.35–0.5 × 0.25–0.35 mm, 1-chambered with 1 basal ovule; style 0.6–1.8 mm long, 2-branched, the branches exserted between tips of bracteoles, divergent, unequal, 0.5–1.5 mm long, stigmatic along most of length. **Fruit:** utricle, vertical, indehiscent and tightly enclosed by 2 bracteoles; utricle membranous and saclike, conforming to shape of seed and loosely adherent to it, light tannish, with persistent style; bracteoles sessile, fused along lower margins to 1/4 or 1/3, depressed-ovate, 3.4–4.8 × 4.3–5.9 mm, flattish but ± spongy, broadly tapered or truncate to subcordate at base, entire or slightly toothed or jagged short-crenate on free margins, rounded or obtuse at tip, drying tannish with slightly wrinkled faces. **Seed:** discoid, 1.4–1.6 × 1.3–1.4 mm, shiny brown, slightly wrinkled, with tip of radicle ascending. Late June−early November.

Native. Shrub common especially along the coastline in hard-packed soil behind beaches and salt marsh but also in non-saline inland drainages, along roadsides, and in certain types

of coastal sage scrub. *Atriplex lentiformis* is the common shadscale shrub within the range, forming dense patches particularly in saline soils, where it can dominate a site. This species typically is dioecious, but monoecious plants can be found within a population. Subspecies or varieties of this species are not currently recognized.
B. A. Prigge & A. C. Gibson