

# Highlight | Restoration action

## *Sea purslane*

### ***The plant***

#### *Atriplex portulacoides (sea purslane)*

*Atriplex portulacoides* L., also known as sea purslane, and synonymous with *Halimione portulacoides* (L.) Aellen, occurs in salt marshes, where it grows naturally in higher elevation areas.

It is a perennial plant that can reach a height of 30 to 60 centimeters. It has small, succulent, grayish-green leaves and branched, succulent stems.

It is tolerant of saline environments (halophytic plant), and plays a crucial role in ecosystems, helping to stabilize soils and prevent erosion, as well as providing habitat and food for wildlife.

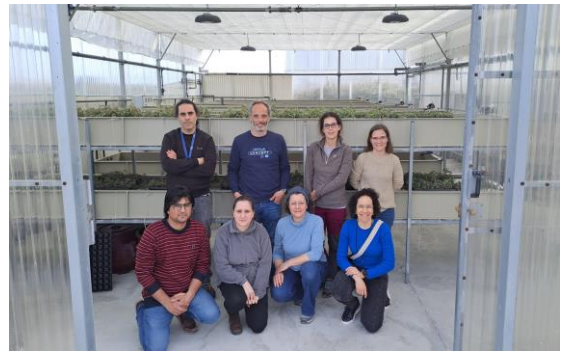
The leaves of *Atriplex portulacoides* can be used in human food and are valued for their salty taste and nutritional properties.



## Growing in hydroponics

### *Atriplex portulacoides* (sea purslane)

Adult plants of *Atriplex portulacoides* were harvested during low tide in the Ria de Aveiro salt marshes to produce cuttings. Around 1000 cuttings with 4 nodules each were kept in a nutrient solution in the growing systems of the greenhouses ECOMARE, University of Aveiro, for the root system to develop. After this period, the growing solution was replenished with brackish water to acclimatize it to natural conditions before planting it to restore habitats in the Ria.



## ***Planting in the Casqueira Marina***

### *Atriplex portulacoides (sea purslane)*



The Casqueira saltpan (Marinha da Casqueira), a natural heritage of the University of Aveiro, is part of the Ria de Aveiro lagoon system where salt production traditionally took place. This saltpan is representative of the region's socio-cultural heritage and its walls have recently been restored, which is why the vegetation is still sparse. To promote the consolidation of the walls, which is naturally promoted by halophytic vegetation, a planting action was carried out. It involved thirteen volunteers and more than 500 plants grown in the cultivation systems of the greenhouses at ECOMARE. For the first planting action, the walls sections without vegetation or where vegetation was not yet well established were prioritized.



## *The participants*

*June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024*



The action included participants from academia, in the areas of natural sciences, social sciences, including economics, and communication sciences; representatives of NGOs and professional training institutions.



### How to cite:

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