WINGSCALE

Atriplex canescens

FAMILY: Chenopodiaceae

GENUS: Atriplex

SPECIES: canescens

COMMON NAMES: Wingscale, "Shadscale," Four-winged Saltbush

POLLEN GRAIN: Spheroidal, 23-25 microns in diameter. Germ pores 2.2-2.6 microns in diameter and 4.5-5.2 microns apart. Granular texture.

POLLINATING PERIOD: June to mid-September

DISTRIBUTION: West Texas to Kansas to Montana and Alberta. Eastern Washington to southern California and Mexico.

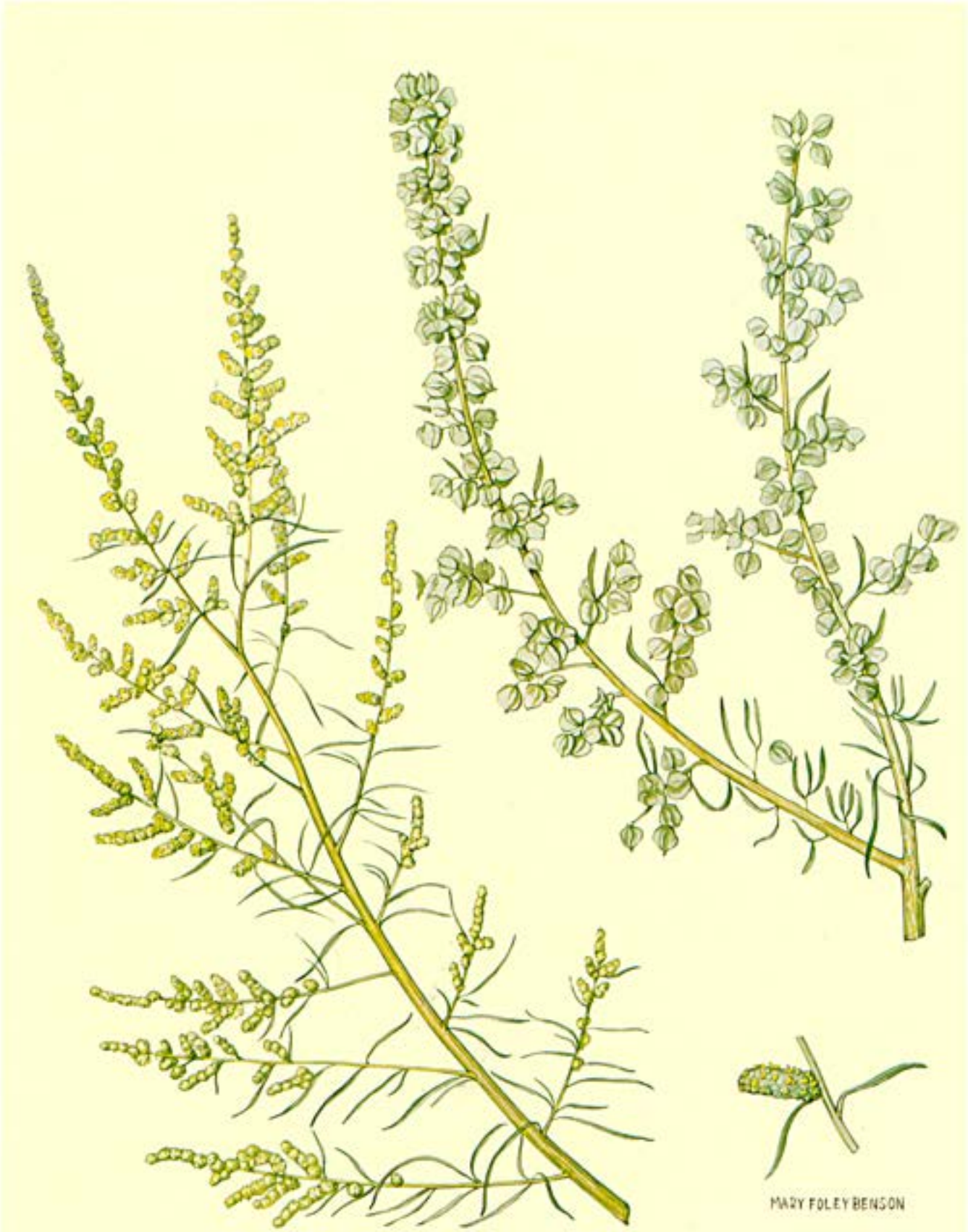
ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE: **Most important of the shrubby species of Atriplex.**

Wingscale is a large woody shrub, densely branched and graysh in appearance. It is a dioecious species (male plants and female plants). Wingscale has a wide range of adaptability, but is most prevalent in alkaline and saline soil. It has the widest distribution of the shrubby saltbushes.

The staminate glomerules are in dense terminal spikelike clusters which produce great quantities of pollen. The characteristic four-winged fruits are pale green when immature, becoming tinged with purple and finally turning brown in late fall.

Though this species has a prolonged summer pollinating period throughout its range, within a locale the pollinating period is usually within a month duration.

The Atriplex genus is divided into two major groups: the shrubby, perennial species here represented by Wingscale; and the herbacious, annual species such as Spearscale and Silverscale. The shrubby species produce much more pollen than the herbacious species.



Atriplex canescens
(Wingscale/Shadscale)