

# A New Report for *Portulaca kuriensis* in Socotra Island

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**It is always a good surprise to find something new in botany, and this is what has happened to Gianluca Bacci, nursery technician at UC Davis Botanical Conservatory xeric collection, California, during a field trip to the island of Socotra.**

After sending pictures to me, it was clear that the plant is a Portulacaceae, from the genus *Portulaca*, which is easily found around Socotra, and well-known, used as food element.

The species actually known to be growing on Socotra Archipelago are:

- ***Portulaca socotrana*** Domina & Raimondo (ex *P. oleracea*),
- ***Portulaca quadrifida*** L.,
- ***Portulaca monanthoides*** Lodé (ex *Portulaca sedifolia*),
- ***Portulaca kuriensis*** M.G.Gilbert, from Abd al Kuri Island,
- and ***Portulaca samhaensis*** A.G.Mill., from Samha Island.

According to the erect shape, a thick root (edible) and the presence of trichomes, more visible during drought, the plants found in Socotra main island most probably pertain to ***Portulaca kuriensis***, which should be then, a new location for the species, thought to be only from Abd al Kuri.

However, this should be not the first plant known on Abd al Kuri which was found on Socotra, as we also have ***Gymnocarpus kuriensis***, a Caryophyllaceae, observed by the first author on Jabal Mtoloh during various expeditions in the island.

More work will be necessary to confirm the finding, but there is still plenty of wildlife to be discovered on Socotra.

Acknowledgement: we must thank Tommy Goodkin who ask the first author for identification of the plant, and brought to light this taxon.



*Portulaca* cf. *kuriensis*, young seedling ©G.Bacci



*Portulaca* cf. *kuriensis*, habitat, Socotra ©G.Bacci



*Portulaca quadrifida*, Socotra. ©JL



*Portulaca quadrifida*, Socotra. ©JL



*Portulaca socotrana*, Socotra. ©JL



*Portulaca socotrana*, Socotra. ©JL



*Portulaca monanthoides*, Socotra. ©JL



*Portulaca monanthoides*, Socotra. ©JL