Supplementary material 1. Comparison between seed and habitat characteristics of *Suaeda vermiculata* seeds in saline and non-saline habitats. EC and pH were determined in a 1:5 water extracts.

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| Parameter | Non-saline habitat | Saline habitat | Two-samples t-test | P |
| Seed mass (mg) | 0.153  | 0.447  | 5.167 | <0.001 |
| Seed viability (%) | 97.6  | 96.0  | 0.79 | 0.493 |
| pH | 8.133 | 8.233 | 0.35 | 0.743 |
| Salinity (g/l) | 0.361 | 5.86 | 19.492 | <0.001 |
| EC (millisiemens/cm) | 1.620 | 18.490 | 9.224 | <0.001 |
| Associate species | *Salsola drummondii Salsola imbricata, Cornulaca sp.*, *Aerva javanica,* *Indigofera oblongifolia, Launea capitata* | *Salsola drummondii, Aeluropus lagopoides, Halopeplis perfoliata*, *Halocnemum strobilaceum* and *Zygophyllum qatarense* |  |  |