

Canavalia rosea

COMMON NAME

Canavalia

SYNONYMS

Canavalia maritima Thouars, *Canavalia obtusifolius* (Lam.) DC.

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Canavalia rosea DC.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

CANROS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 22$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, SO

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DC, SO, OL

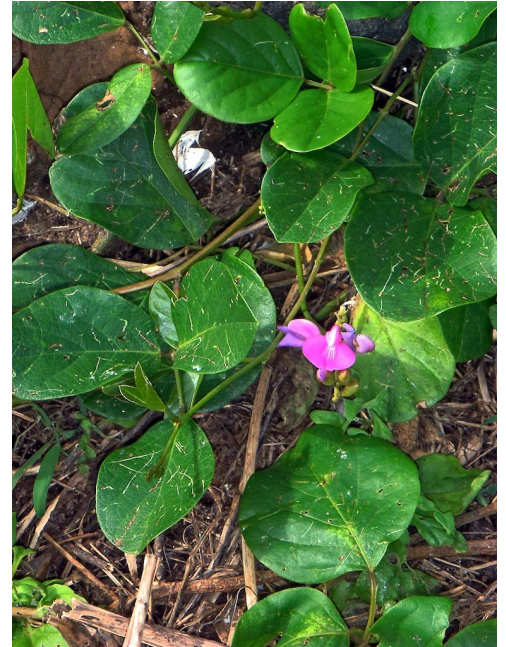
2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from the Kermadec Islands where it is not very common. Found throughout the warmer parts of the Pacific and Indian Oceans

HABITAT

In New Zealand found on boulder beaches and sand dunes on the Kermadec Islands. This is a common beach strand plant of the Pacific Islands, where it usually grows with *Lepturus repens* (G.Forst.) R.Br., *Ipomoea pes-caprae* subsp. *brasiliensis* (L.) Ooststr., and *Vigna marina* (Burm.) Merr.



Napier Island, Kermadec Islands. May 2011.
Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



South Meyer Island, Kermadec Islands.
Kermadec petrel. May 2011. Photographer:
Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb, procumbent and creeping or subscandent to lianoid. Stems up to 3 m, trailing, pubescent with appressed-pilose hairs when young. Leaflets 40-120 × 35-80 mm, dark green above, paler beneath, broad-obovate, broad elliptic, orbicular to obovate, apex rounded or emarginate, pilose-hairy when young, especially below, glabrescent. Inflorescences erect, racemose, few-flowered, peduncles stout, 50-300 mm long. Flowers clustered toward apex of rachis; pedicels 2-6 mm long. Calyx 8 mm long, upper lip 4 mm long, pilose. Petals dark pink; standard broadly elliptic-orbicular to orbicular, c.30 mm, rounded; wings and keel oblanceolate. Ovary silky-hairy; ovules c.7. Pods linear-oblong, initially dark green drying brownish-black, 70-140 × 25-30 mm, glabrescent, with a double rib dorsally and a single ventral rib. Seeds 15-20 mm, brown, often with dark markings, ellipsoid, somewhat flattened.

SIMILAR TAXA

None in New Zealand. A distinctive strand species which cannot be confused with any other plant growing in a similar habitat within the New Zealand Botanical Region.

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

FRUITING

Throughout the year

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are dispersed by water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. However extremely cold sensitive. Various attempts to cultivate it in New Zealand have so far failed because plants die during the winter months.

THREATS

Not threatened. However very uncommon reaching its world southern limit in the New Zealand Botanical Region. Because it occupies such a narrow geographic area it is listed as Range Restricted.

ETYMOLOGY

canavalia: This is a latinized form of kanavali a Malabar vernacular and the name for this genus of climbing herbs.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available (very cold sensitive)

ATTRIBUTION

Description based on herbarium specimens held at AK and observations of cultivated material and plants seen in the wild on Raoul, Norfolk and Rarotonga.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/canavalia-rosea/>