

# Carpobrotus chilensis

## COMMON NAMES

Ice plant

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Mat-forming trailing perennial herb. Stems to about 6 m long, occasionally rooting, subwoody at base. Leaves sharply 3-angled. Flowers 6.5-8 cm diameter, petals purple. Seeds brown about 1mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Very similar to *C. edulis* but can easily be distinguished when flowering. *C. chilensis* has smaller purple flowers. In New Zealand *C. chilensis* has usually be referred to *C. aequilaterus* (Willd.) J.M.Black, a very different looking western Australian endemic.

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Coastal

## GENUS

*Carpobrotus*

## FAMILY

Aizoaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carpobrotus chilensis* (Molina) N.E.Brown

## SYNONYMS

*C. aequilaterus* (Willd.) J.M.Black

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October, November, December

## YEAR NATURALISED

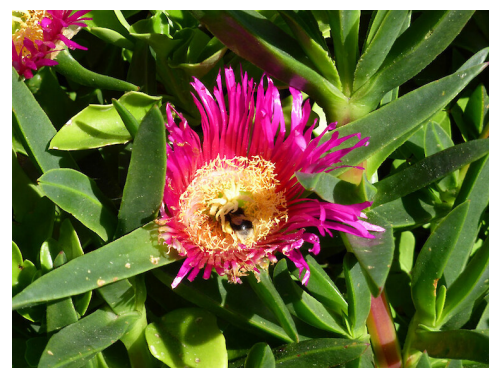
1969

## ORIGIN

California, Chile



Waste area, Castlecliff Beach, Whanganui.  
Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken:  
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Flower with bumble bee, in waste area,  
Castlecliff Beach, Whanganui. Photographer:  
Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 11/09/2016, Licence:  
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## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY

**carpobrotus**: From the Greek karpos 'fruit' and brotus 'edible', the fruits of some species being edible.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carpobrotus-chilensis/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026