Colletia paradoxa

COMMON NAMES
Anchor plant

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
A nearly leafless shrub that grows slowly to 2-3 m tall with oppositely-arranged flattened 50 mm wide triangular spine-tipped gray-green photosynthetic stems (cladodes) that resemble a ship's anchor. Small creamy-white lightly-fragrant flowers at the stem joints bloom in late summer or fall. New growth has small leaves that are present only briefly.

spines and flowers, 'Paloma' Fordel. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 01/05/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Flowers, 'Paloma' Fordel. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 01/05/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FLOWER COLOURS
Cream, White

DISTRIBUTION
Seedlings found near planted garden specimen near Whanganui

GENUS
Colletia

FAMILY
Rhamnaceae

AUTHORITY
Colletia paradoxa (Spreng.) Escal.

SYNONYMS
Colletia cruciata Gill.&Hook.

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

YEAR NATURALISED
2008

ORIGIN
Uruguay, western Argentina and southern Brazil

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Ornamental

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
seed, cuttings

ETYMOLOGY
colletia: The genus name honors French botanist Philibert Collet (1643-1718).
paradoxa: From Greek 'paradoxos' = unexpected, strange, marvellous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by C C Ogle, 9 Dec. 2014

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/colletia-paradoxa/

PDF DATE

25 May 2026