

# Crassula manaia

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Crassulaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Crassula manaia* A.P.Druce et Sykes

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

CRAMAN

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, EF, RR, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, EF, RR, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, EF, RR, Sp

2004 | Gradual Decline

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Confined to the south Taranaki coast.

## HABITAT

Coastal turf and associated fine silts and gravels. Often found mixed through the grass *Zoysia minima*.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Minute annual to short-lived perennial herb forming small, pale green moss-like diffuse to dense, compact mats. Stems filiform, rooting at nodes, scarcely ascending at tips, much branched. Leaves succulent, fused at base 1-2(-3.5) x 0.6-1 mm, 0.5-0.6 mm thick, elliptic-lanceolate to elliptic-ovate, flat above, convex beneath, apex obtuse to subacute. Flowers soliatry in leaf axils, 4-merous, 1-1.3 mm diam., pedicels < 1 mm elongated to 3 mm at fruiting. Calyx lobes 0.7-1 x 0.4 mm, ovate-lanceolate, ovate-elliptic or broadly ovate, acute to subacute. Petals 0.6-0.9 x 0.3 mm, triangular-ovate, minute, pink, reddish or greenish-white, about length of calyx. Folicle smooth. Seed 0.3-0.35 mm.



*Crassula manaia*. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cape Egmont. Oct 2011. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *C. mataikona* with which it sometimes grows. *C. mataikona* is larger forming more diffuse mats, its stems are ascending to erect from near the base, 10-30 mm tall. The leaves form dense aggregations along portions of otherwise exposed stem, while there are (1-)2 flowers per leaf axil. Flowers often appear densely clustered because of subsidiary leaves, which in turn often bear flowers. *C. mataikona* seed are slightly larger (0.35-0.43 mm). Both have different nrDNA ITS sequences.

## FLOWERING

Flowers may be found throughout the year

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## FRUITING

Fruit may be found throughout the year

## LIFE CYCLE

Minute follicles are dispersed by wind and water and possibly also by attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from small rooted pieces which readily self-sow and establish themselves if conditions are suitable. Best in a small pot, kept weed free, moist and placed in a sunny place. In some gardens this species has proved very aggressive and has become a weed of gravel driveways and asphalt footpaths.

## THREATS

Extremely vulnerable to habitat loss through the spread of taller, faster growing weeds. Its survival depends entirely on a delicate balance of maintaining some level of disturbance to retain the open coast turf communities it requires and yet not allowing too much disturbance which can easily destroy these sensitive habitats.

## ETYMOLOGY

**crassula**: From the Latin *crassus* 'thick', meaning 'rather thick'

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (28 July 2005). Description based on Druce & Sykes (1988).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Druce, A.P.; Sykes, W. R. 1988: A new species of *Crassula* L. in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 26: 477-478.

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* 11: 285-309

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Crassula manaia* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/crassula-manaia/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/crassula-manaia/>