Crassula moschata

COMMON NAMES
shore stonecrop

BIOSTATUS
Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Perennial herb forming small to very large and extensive loose or dense mats, sometimes several metres in diameter; stems decumbent, rooting at nodes, ascending at tips, much-branched. Leaves connate at base, very variable, 2.0-12.0 × 1.2-3.4 mm, c.0.7 mm thick, narrowly oblong-spathulate or narrowly oblong-elliptic, sometimes elliptic, flattened above, weakly convex beneath; apex obtuse. Flowers solitary in leaf axils, star-like, sweetly fragrant, 4-merous, 4-6 mm diameter; pedicels 1-3 mm long at anthesis, not elongating at fruiting. Calyx lobes 1.0-1.8 × 0.5-0.6 mm, ovate or triangular-ovate, obtuse. Petals 2.0-3.5 × 1.2-1.7 mm, broadly obovate-elliptic to suborbicular, white or white with pink flush towards base, obtuse, much > calyx. Scales 0.8-0.9 mm long, oblong-cuneate to almost linear and only slightly wider towards apex. Follicles smooth. Seeds 0.5-0.7 mm long

Point Somes, Chatham islands. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Howell's Point, Southland - growing amongst Leptinella dioica and Selliera radicans. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DISTRIBUTION
Indigenous. In New Zealand common from the south Wellington coastline south, including the Chathams and other subantarctic islands. Also reported from Mayor Island (Bay of Plenty).
Common in southern Chile, Argentina, The Falklands. Uncommon in Australia.

HABITAT
Strictly coastal. On wave washed rock platforms, reefs, coastal cliffs faces, and damp peaty seepages and tidal creeks - always within the influence of salt spray.

GENUS
Crassula

FAMILY
Crassulaceae

AUTHORITY
Crassula moschata G.Forst.

SYNONYMS
Tillaea moschata (G.Forst.) DC.

ENDEMIC TAXON
No

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
Throughout the year

FRUITING
Throughout the year

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Minute follicles are dispersed by wind and water and possiblty also by attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easy from rooted pieces and stem cuttings. Does best in damp soils in semi-shade, except in cool climates.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FAC: Facultative
Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY
crassula: From the Latin crassus 'thick', meaning 'rather thick'
moschata: Musky

NVS CODE
CRAMOS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 28

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: CI, DPS, DPT, NS, NStr, RR Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

ATTRIBUTION
Description modified from Webb et al. (1988).

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/crassula-moschata/

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