

Crassula orbicularis

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White

HABITAT

Known only from one place. Rangitoto Island where scattered plants grew in and around the entrance to an old quarry pit. All plants seen were removed. No plants present in 2006.

GENUS

Crassula

FAMILY

Crassulaceae

AUTHORITY

Crassula orbicularis L.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Often sold in garden centres (often wrongly named as *C. rosularis* Haw. or even *Aeonium xhaworthii*).

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

2005

ORIGIN

South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Horticultural

TOLERANCES

Moderately drought tolerant but dislikes cold (even in Auckland).

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial succulent herb. Reproduces asexually through stolons and possibly by seed. Produces miniscule, long-lived seed of variable viability in New Zealand samples examined. Probably a cultivation escape and/or garden discard. It is slow growing in winter but can grow very fast in summer. The stolons disarticulate readily

ETYMOLOGY

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



Crassula orbicularis young plant at rosette stage, Ex Cult. Old Quarry Pit, Rangitoto Island. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Date taken: 16/09/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Crassula orbicularis showing inflorescence just prior to anthesis, Ex Cult. Old Quarry Pit, Rangitoto Island. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Date taken: 16/09/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026