

Crassula peduncularis

SYNONYMS

Tillaea peduncularis Smith, *Tillaea purpurata* Hook.f., *Crassula purpurata* (Hook.f.) Domin and others

FAMILY

Crassulaceae

AUTHORITY

Crassula peduncularis (Smith) F.Meigen

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

CRAPED

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 42$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: EF, RR, SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: EF, RR, SO

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: SO, EF, RR

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand recorded from North, South and Stewart Islands where it is mainly found in the drier eastern areas. North Island, south from the south Taranaki coast and Hawkes Bay to Wellington. South Island scattered locally from Marlborough to Southland. Stewart island, known from Masons Bay. Indigenous to Australia and South America

HABITAT

Coastal to subalpine. A species of ephemeral wetlands (lake margins, tarns), seasonally damp coastal turfs, and uplifted marine terraces.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



Crassula peduncularis plants showing seed capsules, South Taranaki Coast. Photographer: Colin Ogle



Crassula peduncularis habitat. Photographer: Andrew Townsend

FEATURES

Inconspicuous, rather delicate, primarily late winter to spring annual herb. Stem decumbent or prostrate fleshy, pinkish white, white to purple, rooting at nodes, usually much branched and ascending. Leaves connate (fused) at base, 1.3-4.5 x 0.3-0.7 mm, fleshy, dark green, yellow-green to pink, linear, linear-lanceolate, flattened above, convex beneath; apex acute or apiculate. Flowers 4-merous, solitary arising from axial or one leaf within a pair, on pedicels.

SIMILAR TAXA

Could be confused with the other indigenous *Crassula* species from which it is best distinguished by the distinctive stalked (pedicellate) seed heads and its strict annual habit. It could be confused with the naturalised South African *C. decumbens* Thunb., which differs from *C. peduncularis* by its larger overall, size, multi-branched, upright bushy habit, larger flowers, and near sessile fruiting habit.

FLOWERING

Late July to December

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

August to February

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Although easily cultivated from fresh seed this species is difficult to maintain in cultivation. It prefers a damp, sunny situation and is best kept in a small pot partially submerged in water.

THREATS

Weed invasion of the seasonally damp, summer dry habitats this species requires is the main threat. Currently most of the larger populations are found in sites where browsing animals such as sheep and cattle keep down competing weed species, or in high altitude habitats still relatively free of weed species. The species small size, and annual habit, mean that it is easily overlooked, so some of its former habitats have been destroyed in ignorance through coastal development.

ETYMOLOGY

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

peduncularis: Flowers stalked

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2005). Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb et al. (1988), supplemented with observations made from fresh and dried material.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer.

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.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R..

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/crassula-peduncularis/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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