

Disphyma australe subsp. stricticaule

COMMON NAMES

Kermadec Ice plant

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Trailing, succulent herb. **Stem** terete, glabrous. Short shoots erect or nearly so, rarely rooting at nodes. **Leaves** 3-angled, linear-lanceolate to oblong, acute, often mucronate, tapering to connate base, 6–40 × 4–9 mm; margins papillate. **Flowers** 20–40 mm diameter. **Sepal keel** papillate. **Petals** uniformly white to deep pink, in 3–5 rows, 10–30 mm long. **Stamens** 4–6 mm long; inner filaments hairy at base. **Stigmas** (5)–6–8–(10). **Capsule valves** 5–(6), with parallel or ± divergent expanding keels; placental tubercle rounded or 0. **Seeds** brown, obovoid, rugose, c. 1 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other New Zealand species except the Chatham Island endemic *D. papillatum* Chinnock, by the leaf margin and sepal keel papillate, by the short shoots mostly ascending, rarely rooting at nodes, and by the 5 rarely 6 capsule valves. From *D. papillatum* it differs by its ascending short shoots, which rarely root at the nodes, terete rather than 2-angular, smooth rather than papillate stems, absence of a placental tubercle, and weakly rugose rather than papillate seeds.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal. On rock stacks, cliff faces, banks, cobble and boulder beaches, or in the vicinity of bird nesting grounds. Widespread and common.

THREATS

Not threatened within its small geographic range

GENUS

Disphyma

FAMILY

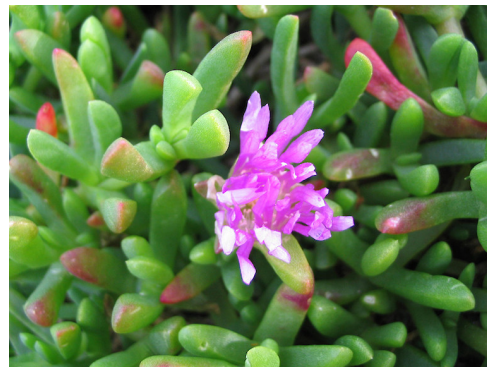
Aizoaceae

AUTHORITY

Disphyma australe subsp. *stricticaule* Chinnock



Disphyma australe subsp. *stricticaule* at Fishing Rock, Raoul Island. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.



Macauley Island. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FRUITING

Throughout the year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from rooted pieces. Does best in a well drained fertile soil in full sun.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ETYMOLOGY

disphyma: Two-nodule

australe: Southern, from the Latin australis

NVS CODE

DISASS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, IE

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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)

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/disphyma-australe-subsp-stricticaule/>

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