

Disphyma clavellatum

COMMON NAMES

jellybeans

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

[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 prostrate, terete, glabrous. Leaves terete or weakly 3-angled, obtuse and mucronate at apex, clavate, tapering to shortly connate base, 5-50 × 4-5-10 mm; margins papillate. Flowers 20-40 mm diameter. Calyx glabrous; sepal keels smooth. Petals purple with white base (bases turning purple when dry), in 2 rows, 10-30 mm long. Stamens 5-7 mm long; filaments hairy at base; anthers whitish yellow. Capsule 5-12 mm diameter, valves with widely divergent expanding keels; placental tubercle 2-lobed. Seeds pale brown to brown, weakly rugose or smooth, c.1 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other New Zealand species by the terete or weakly 3-angled, clavate, obtuse, finely mucronate leaves; petals in 2 rows, these purple with a white base (the base turning purple on drying); and by the placental tubercle 3-lobed.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous: New Zealand, South Island (Waimea Inlet and Riverton Estuary). Present in Australia

HABITAT

Saltmarsh and estuaries - often in places flooded at high tide.

THREATS

Not Threatened. Presumed to be a relatively recent i.e. last 50 or so years, natural arrival from Australia

GENUS

Disphyma

FAMILY

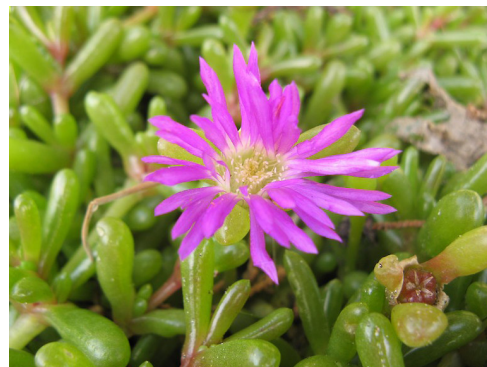
Aizoaceae

AUTHORITY

Disphyma clavellatum (Haw.) Chinnock

SYNONYMS

Mesembryanthemum clavellatum Haw.; *Disphyma crassifolium* subsp. *clavellatum* (Haw.) Chinnock; *Disphyma blackii* Chinnock; *Disphyma crassifolium* (L.) L.Bolus; *Mesembryanthemum crassifolium* L.



Sandy Point on the shore of New River Estuary, Invercargill. Photographer: Alice Shanks, Date taken: 01/04/2010, Licence: CC BY-SA.



Sandy Point on the shore of New River Estuary, Invercargill. Photographer: Alice Shanks, Date taken: 01/04/2010, Licence: CC BY-SA.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - January

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces, division of whole plants and fresh seed.

ETYMOLOGY

disphyma: Two-nodule

NVS CODE

DISCLA

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

2009 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regional Non-Resident – Regional Coloniser 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, C. J.; Sykes, W. R.; Garnock-Jones, P. J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. 4. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

ATTRIBUTION

Description based on Webb et al. (1988)

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/disphyma-clavellatum/>

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