

Drosera capensis

COMMON NAME

Cape sundew

FAMILY

Droseraceae

AUTHORITY

Drosera capensis L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Herbs other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not assessed

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low growing herb with distinctive strap-like leaves with sticky red hairs, each growing from a central axis (like a dandelion), with tall flower stems (up to 30 cm tall) with a number of bright pink flowers arranged at the tip of the flower stalk, the oldest flowers near the base.

DISTRIBUTION

Only known from two sites in Waitakere District, Auckland.

HABITAT

Dune slack wetlands.

FEATURES

Rosette-forming perennial herb. Leaves bright green, petiolate with a linear ligulate lamina, 8-16 cm x 4-6 mm. Lamina clad in red stalked glandular hairs secreting a sticky mucilage to trap insects and other small invertebrates. Peduncles several per plant, up to 30 cm long, glandular hairy, inflorescence a cyme of many (6-30) rose-pink regular 5-petalled flowers 12-14 mm across. Fruit a capsule, with each scape capable of producing 1000-2000 seeds.

SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially similar to the native sundews, with *Drosera arcturi* (a montane to subalpine bog species) also having strap-like leaves although these are usually reddish rather than green, with wider petioles with sheathing bases.

FLOWERING

Late spring to summer

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

Summer to autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Deliberate planting, with subsequent seed dispersal by animals or water.

YEAR NATURALISED

2001

ORIGIN

South Africa



Drosera capensis. Photographer: Paul Champion



Drosera capensis. Photographer: Kerry Bodmin

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Notify regional council if found.

ETYMOLOGY

drosera: Dewy

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

[Wikipedia - Drosera-capensis](#)

[Grow sundews website - http://www.growsundews.com/sundews/Drosera_capensis.html](http://www.growsundews.com/sundews/Drosera_capensis.html)

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J.; Cameron, E.K.; Ogle, C.C.; Champion, P.D. (2004). Checklist of dicotyledons, gymnosperms and pteridophytes naturalised or casual in New Zealand: additional records 2001-2003. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 797-814.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/drosera-capensis/>