Drosera capensis

COMMON NAMES
Cape sundew

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED 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.

FLOWER COLOURS
Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
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.

DISTRIBUTION
Only known from two sites in Waitakere District, Auckland.

HABITAT
Dune slack wetlands.

GENUS
Drosera

FAMILY
Droseraceae

AUTHORITY
Drosera capensis L.

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
Late spring to summer

FRUITING
Summer to autumn

YEAR NATURALISED
2001

ORIGIN
South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Ornamental plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES
Notify regional council if found.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Deliberate planting, with subsequent seed dispersal by animals or water.

ETYMOLOGY
drosera: Dewy

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES
This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the MPI website.

NVS CODE
DROCAP

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Wikipedia - Drosera-capensis
Grow sundews website - 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.

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

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/drosera-capensis/

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