

Illecebrum verticillatum

COMMON NAMES

Coral necklace

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous, much-branched pink-red to reddish annual up to 150 mm tall. Branches (especially sterile ones) sprawling procumbent to decumbent, rooting on contact with ground, stems pink-red to red, \pm fleshy, fertile stems floriferous from base, \pm ascending. Interpetiolar stipules minute, membranous, apices often lacerate. Leaves \pm succulent, subsessile or with very short petiole very short; lamina ovate to obovate, obtuse to subacute. Inflorescences verticillate, crowded in leaf axils, bracteolate; bracts membranous. Flowers sessile, densely packed, whorled, minute (1.8-)2.0(-2.5) mm long; calyx white to pinkish, divided into 5-segments, these almost free, \pm succulent, apices acute terminated by a fine, often twisted, bristle-like apiculus; petals minute, pink to pinkish red; stamens 3(-5), minute borne on very short filaments; style minute. Capsules 2-locular. Seeds 1 per locule, ovoid, brown, glossy.

DISTRIBUTION

Exotic. An uncommon naturalised plant so far known only from western Northland (Waipoua River mouth, Kaiwi Lakes), South Head, Kaipara (Lake Ototoa) and Westland (Lake Brunner)

HABITAT

Lake margins and slowly flowing coastal streams. So far only recorded from the western North Island on the margins of sand dune lakes and streams traversing dune field, and from the South Island on the shores of Lake Brunner

GENUS

Illecebrum

FAMILY

Caryophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Illecebrum verticillatum L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ATTRIBUTION

Description by Peter J. de Lange (14 June 2016).



On Lakeshore, Lake Taharoa Far North. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 08/06/2019, Licence: CC BY.



In Stream, Tutamoe Far North. Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 17/05/2022, Licence: CC BY.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Illecebrum verticillatum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/illecebrum-verticillatum/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026