Ipomoea pes-caprae subsp. brasiliensis

COMMON NAME
beach morning glory

SYNONYMS
None

FAMILY
Convolvulaceae

AUTHORITY
Ipomoea pes-caprae subsp. brasiliensis (L.) Ooststr.

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
No

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 30

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO
2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION
Indigenous. Abundant throughout the Pacific Ocean and in parts of Central America. Reaching its world southern limit in New Zealand. In New Zealand it is common on some of the Kermadec Islands, and is otherwise known only from an extant population at Te Paki, and a recent historic one near Waipapakauri at the southern end of the Ninety-mile beach.

HABITAT
Usually a strict beach strand plant found along the high tide mark growing in driftwood or at the base of foredunes. On the Kermadecs it has also been recorded growing along the rim of active fumaroles (Sykes 1970).

FEATURES
Stout, tap-rooted, glabrous perennial scrambler. Stems numerous, prostrate, trailing up to 20 m long, rooting freely at nodes. Petiole stout, fleshy, erect, 110 mm or more long. Leaves 40-120(-170) x 35-120(-150) mm, broad-oblong to suborbicular, entire, thick, fleshy; base cuneate to truncate, apex emarginate or shallowly 2-lobed. Inflorescence 1-several-flowered; peduncles 30-150 mm long, stout, fleshy; pedicels 10-30 mm. Sepals 8-12 mm, unequal, ovate, obtuse. Corolla 30-50 x 40-55 mm, funnelform, pink with an irregular rose-band inside around the base of the limb. Stamens included. Capsule 20 mm diam., globose-ovoid. Seeds 2-4, tomentose, brown.
**SIMILAR TAXA**
None. Even when not in flower the large, dark green, fleshy, broad-oblong to suborbicular, entire, glossy leaves are unmistakable.

**FLOWERING**
October-April

**FLOWER COLOURS**
Red/Pink

**FRUITING**
October - August

**LIFE CYCLE**
Seeds are dispersed by wind and water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

**PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**
Easy from fresh seed but extremely cold sensitive. Even in mild climates, such as Kaitaia it has proved difficult to grow.

**THREATS**
Not threatened, but outside the Kermadec Islands it is only known from one extant mainland site near Te Paki (Young 1998; de Lange 2012). Formerly it grew near Waipapakauri on the Ninety-Mile Beach but that site, which consisted of one plant was destroyed by forestry (Cooper 1967; de Lange 2012).

**ETYMOLOGY**
*ipomoea*: Worm-like, referring to coiled flower bud

**ATTRIBUTION**
Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (18 January 2008). Description adapted from Green (1994).

**REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**


**NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**
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https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ipomoea-pes-caprae-subsp-brasiliensis/ (Date website was queried)

**MORE INFORMATION**