

# *Ipomoea pes-caprae* subsp. *brasiliensis*

## COMMON NAMES

beach morning glory

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CI, RR, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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, funnellform, 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.

## 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).

## 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).

## GENUS

*Ipomoea*

## FAMILY

Convolvulaceae



*Ipomoea pes-caprae* subsp. *brasiliensis*.  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



*Ipomoea pes-caprae* subsp. *brasiliensis*.  
Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## AUTHORITY

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

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October-April

## FRUITING

October - August

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 30

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regional Non-Resident – Regional Vagrant Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Cooper, R.C. 1967: *Ipomoea pes-caprae* (Convolvulaceae) on Ninety Mile Beach, New Zealand. *Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum* 6: 171–174.

de Lange, P.J. 2012: Beach morning glory (*Ipomoea pes-caprae* subsp. *brasiliensis*) in beach drift on Ripiro Beach, Omamari Stream Mouth, Northland. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 54: 37–41.

Green, P.S. 1994 *Flora of Australia* Volume 49, Oceanic Islands 1. Australian Government Publishing Service. Canberra.

Sykes, W.R. 1970: *Ipomoea pes-caprae* (L.) R.Br. subsp. *brasiliensis* (L.) Oostrm. In the New Zealand Botanical Region. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 8: 249–253.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309

Young, M. 1998: Field trip based at Te Paki Farm Park 13–18 November 1997. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 53: 9–10.

**ATTRIBUTION**

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

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ipomoea-pes-caprae-subsp-brasiliensis/>

**PDF DATE**

25 May 2026