

Selliera radicans

COMMON NAME

Selliera, remuremu, half-star, bonking grass

FAMILY

Goodeniaceae

AUTHORITY

Selliera radicans Cav.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Herbs other than Composites

NVS CODE

SELRAD

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 16

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Three Kings, North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to alpine. In permanently to seasonally damp, open sites and depressions such as in sand swales, on cliff tops and on talus slopes below these, in coastal turf, in the marginal turf of lake and ponds, in salt pans. Mostly coastal but also recorded from well inland in the South Island and parts of the Central North Island (such as along the shores of Lake Taupo)



Coromandel, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Selliera radicans, Curio Bay. Photographer: John Barkla

FEATURES

Perennial, ± succulent creeping herb forming matted patches up to 1 m or more in diameter. Stems and branches, 1-4 mm diameter, white or yellowish, procumbent (rarely with tips ascendant) held near at or just below substrate surface, widely spreading, rooting at nodes yellowish. Leaves, 1-4 borne in a fascicles along stem, alternate, appressed to ground or ascending, coriaceous, (± succulent (fleshy)), dark green to yellow-green, glabrous, glossy; petioles 4-40 mm long, slender flattened; lamina 3-50 × 1-10 mm, very variable ranging from orbicular, rhomboid through narrowly spathulate, obovate-spathulate, linear-spathulate to linear, base attenuate to truncate, apex obtuse, subacute to acute. Inflorescences single, arising in leaf axils, borne on stout fleshy, bracteate peduncles 4-45 mm, bracts 1.0-2.6 × 0.7-1.3 mm, broadly to narrowly lanceolate, falcate, green, erect; pedicels 1-24 mm long; bracts 0.8-1.0 × 0.6-0.9 mm, subulate-attenuate. Flowers 1-2. Calyx persistent, calyx lobes 1.2-1.6 × 0.7-1.2 mm, linear to narrow-triangular, green, distally flushed red, apex subacute to acute; corolla 4-11 × 8-16 mm; petals 5 fused in proximal part, inner surface white to pale blue, outer white, pinkish-white to pale red; petal segments 3-8 × 1.5-2.4 mm, lanceolate to narrow-oblong, falcate, acute to acuminate. Ovary 1.4-1.9 mm, green, glabrous. Style purple-red, stigma glabrous, orange brown. Stamens 3, orange-brown. Fruit 3.0-6.1 × 2.1-10.0 mm, obovoid to ovoid, truncate, green. Seeds 1.0-1.8 mm long, broadly ovate, broadly elliptic to almost circular, biconvex, pale orange yellow to pale brown, winged, wing 0.1-0.3 mm wide, margin irregular, wrinkled, translucent.

SIMILAR TAXA

Selliera radicans is extremely variable and it warrants further taxonomic investigation. However most forms are distinguished from the allied *S. rotundifolia* with which it grows by the usually rhomboid through narrowly spathulate, obovate-spathulate, linear-spathulate to linear leaves. However forms with orbicular leaves that grow on cliffs along the Whanganui - North Taranaki Coastline are difficult to separate from *S. rotundifolia*. However, both species can be separated by their seeds (Webb & Simpson 2001), those of *S. rotundifolia* are 1.0-1.5 mm long (1.0-1.8 mm long in *S. radicans*). Distinction from *S. microphylla* is less clear, although Webb & Simpson (2001) note that seeds of *S. microphylla* have a narrower wing (< 0.1 mm wide). Cytologically there is some support for *S. microphylla* (see de Lange & Rolfe 2010) but this needs further investigation.

FLOWERING

August - April

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, White

FRUITING

October - June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants. Does best in a permanently damp site in full sun. Not particularly fussy about soil fertility. *Selliera* makes an excellent "no-mow" lawn. As a species *Selliera* is extremely variable and some critical selection of this diversity by horticulturists is needed to find the best forms suited to cultivation.

ETYMOLOGY

selliera: After Sellier

radicans: Creeping and rooting

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 28 June 2012. Description from herbarium material and fresh plants except for the seed description which is modified from Webb & Simpson (2001). Common name 'half-star' added by C C Ogle 24 Oct 2019

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Rolfe, J.R. 2010: New Zealand Indigenous Vascular Plant Checklist. Wellington, New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. 164pp.

Duguid, F. 1985. *Selliera radicans* with regular corolla. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 42: 84

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Christchurch, The Caxton Press. 428 p.

CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/selliera-radicans/>