

Sprengelia incarnata

COMMON NAMES

Pink swamp heath

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Shrub to 2m tall with erect twigs covered in spirals of small twisted pointed leaves and with pinkish flowers and dry fruit inhabiting a few sites in Fiordland. Leaves 5-10mm long, with wide base that clasps the stem, margin finely hairy (lens needed). Flowers 5mm wide, towards tip of twigs. Capsule 2-3mm wide.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Spindly, erect, sparingly branched, glabrous shrubs, up to 2 m tall, sometimes low and spreading. Young stems honey-brown to reddish brown, smooth, older stems grey-brown or grey. Leaves persistent, eventually falling on older branches leaving a smooth surface without leaf scars; imbricate, with broad sheathing base completely enclosing stem, lamina bronze-green, green to yellow-green, at first widening broader than sheath and then tapering to hard, pungent tip, concave, rigid, spreading, 7-20(-25) mm long. Flowers solitary, terminal on short lateral branches, crowded toward the end of the main branches, inflorescences ovate, bracts numerous, foliose, similar to but smaller than leaves, sometimes obscuring flowers. Sepals and petals 5, equal, 5-10(-12) mm long, spreading widely at anthesis. Sepals, rigid, lanceolate, scarious, pale pink or greenish. Corolla-tube very short or formed from the petals which are free at the base, and then cohering to form a short tube above; if tube present then lobes long, narrowly lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, spreading, dark pink. Stamens 5, inserted on the receptacle, cohering to form a tube around the style, filaments pink or pinkish-white ± flattened upper ½-¼ papillose-hairy; anther basifixed, bilocular dehiscing along a single longitudinal slit, pollen dark orange yellow to orange-brown. Nectary absent. Ovary 5-locular. Style filiform, = to slightly longer than stamens, pink; stigma capitate, scarcely wider than style, dark carmine. Fruit a dry, yellow-grown, subcylindrical capsule.

SIMILAR TAXA

None. However, *Sprengelia* could possibly be confused with *Dracophyllum* from which it differs by its leaves which when they fall leave no abscission mark resulting in smooth bark; by the terminal, solitary, much larger, pink flowers; and by the stamens cohering to form a tube around the style



Coal Burn, 250m asl. Photographer: Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls, Date taken: 27/03/2013, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Coal Burn, 250m asl. Photographer: Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls, Date taken: 27/03/2013, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: South Island (Fiordland National Park (Chalky-Dusky Peninsula (Wilson River-Macnamara Creek Saddle), Resolution Island (Five Fingers Peninsula)). Also Australia (Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales)

HABITAT

Coastal to montane in open, windswept, tussock-bog containing kahikatoa (*Leptospermum scoparium*), yellow silver pine (*Lepidothamnus intermedius*), *Dracophyllum longifolium*, *Gleichenia dicarpa*, Sphagnum moss, and *Bulbinella gibbsii* var. *balanifera*

THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, Range-restricted species locally abundant within its few known habitats. There are no known threats. All known populations occur within Fiordland National Park.

GENUS

Sprengelia

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Sprengelia incarnata Sm.

SYNONYMS

None applicable to New Zealand

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FRUITING

Throughout the year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

NVS CODE

SPRINC

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore, L.B. 1969: *Sprengelia incarnata* Sm: an Australian Plant in Fiordland. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 7: 96-99.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange 27 June 2006. Description drawn up from herbarium specimens held at AK and CHR. Useful information on the Fiordland populations of *Sprengelia* can be found in Moore (1969).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sprengelia-incarnata/>

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