

Thyridia repens

COMMON NAMES

native musk, Māori musk, native monkey flower

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, EF, PD, RR, SO

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Mat-forming, succulent, perennial herb. All parts glabrous. Stems dark green to red-green, prostrate, sometimes ascending at apices, rooting at nodes. Leaves sessile, amplexicaul, c. 2-8 x 1-6 mm, dark green, brown-green to reddish-green, broadly ovate-oblong, entire, punctuate, somewhat succulent. Flowers on short, ascending branches, solitary in leaf axils; pedicels 2-8 mm long, dark green to pinkish-green. Calyx 2-7 mm long, < corolla tube, broadly funneliform; apex truncate, minutely toothed. Corolla 10-15 mm long, distinctly 2-lipped. light purple, mauve, lilac or white, red-spotted with yellow open throat; lower lip bearded; lobes shallow, broader than long. Capsule 6.5 mm long, broadly cylindric.

SIMILAR TAXA

None - the combination of habitat preference, mat-forming growth form, succulent, glabrous, dark green to red-green stems and foliage, and light purple, mauve, lilac or white flowers mark this species out from the three other introduced and yellow-flowered *Erythranthe* species present in New Zealand.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North and South Islands. Also Australia

HABITAT

Strictly coastal. Usually at the back of salt marshes and estuaries, in permanently damp or soggy, saline mud or silt soils in locations that are periodically flooded during high, spring or King tides. Sometimes in dune swales. Intolerant of much competition from taller plants or faster growing mat-forming species.

THREATS

A widespread, naturally uncommon, biologically sparse species. It is most uncommon in the northern North Island becoming progressively more abundant south of the Waikato, although it is still often absent over large parts of the country. In some parts of its range, particularly metropolitan Auckland, populations have been lost through road realignments (where they cross salt marshes e.g., the upper Waitemata Harbour) or through land reclamation. The spread of the aggressive salt grasses (*Spartina* spp.) and *Carex divisa*. is also a risk in some parts of its range. Nevertheless, these range contractions are insufficient nationally to justify an upgrade to one of the three threat categories.



Tiwai Peninsula, Southland (flowers).
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Tiwai Peninsula, Southland (flower detail).
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GENUS

Thyridia

FAMILY

Phrymaceae

AUTHORITY

Thyridia repens (R.Br.) W.R.Barker et Beardsley

SYNONYMS

Mimulus repens R.Br.; Mimulus colensoi Kirk

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Barker et al. (2012) proposed a new classification for Mimulus in which they segregated off a number of genera, including the erection of a monotypic Thyridia W.P.Barker et Beardsley to cover the Australasian species Mimulus repens R.Br. However, many of the characters which were used to segregate that genus are found also in Peplidium Delile and further the molecular support for the generic splits proposed is weak. Therefore until further research is undertaken it seems wise to retain the existing classification for Mimulus.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

September - February

FRUITING

November - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces, stem cuttings and fresh seed. Very beautiful but tends to be short lived. Needs frequent re-potting to maintain itself and should be grown in full sun in a pot kept partially submerged in water.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

repens: From Latin repere meaning to creep, means creeping

NVS CODE

THYREP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, SO

2004 | Sparse

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Endangered | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT, EF, PF, RR, SO 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.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CI, DPS, DPT, NStr, PF, RR, Sp Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the “Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025” Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

Barker, W.R.; Nesom, G.L.; Beardsley, P.M.; Fraga, N.S.2012: A taxonomic conspectus of Phrymaceae: A narrowed circumscriptions for *Mimulus*, new and resurrected genera, and new names and combinations. Phytoneuron 1-60.

Gardner, R. 1988. Mimulus repens. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 43: 67

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 8 August 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961).

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/thyridia-repens/>

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