

Disphyma papillatum

COMMON NAMES

Chatham Island ice plant

SYNONYMS

None - was once considered part of the normal variation exhibited by *D. australe*

FAMILY

Aizoaceae

AUTHORITY

Disphyma papillatum Chinnock

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

DISPAP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic: Chatham Islands: Rekohu (Chatham), Ranguaria (Pitt), Rangatira (South East), Mangere, Little Mangere, Rabbit, Castle, Forty Fours, Star Keys, Sisters and Western Reef

HABITAT

Abundant on coastal rocks, cliffs and gravels, often in very exposed, inhospitable sites.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Trailing, succulent herb. Stem flattened, 2-angled, glabrous. Leaves 3-angled, acute, tapering to connate base, 4-30 × 5-6 mm; margins papillate. Flowers 20-40 mm diameter. Petals uniformly white, pink, dark blue or purple, in 3-5 rows, 10-30 mm long. Stamens 5-6 mm long; inner filaments hairy at base. Stigmas 5(-6). Capsule valves with widely divergent expanding keels; placental tubercle present, 2-lobed or reduced to a ridge. Seeds yellowish brown to brown, obovoid, distinctly papillate, c.1 mm long.



Near Owenga, Chatham Island. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Near Owenga, Chatham Island. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other New Zealand species by the papillate rather than smooth, 2-angular rather than terete stems, and distinctly papillate rather than rugose or smooth seeds.

FLOWERING

July - May

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

Present throughout the year

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy capsules are dispersed by frugivory and possibly wind and water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from rooted pieces and fresh seed. Does best in full sun, within a damp, well drained and fertile soil

THREATS

Not Threatened: Abundant on coastal cliffs, rock stacks, cobble beaches, on offshore islands, and around petrel burrows in open coastal forest.

ETYMOLOGY

disphyma: Two-nodule

ATTRIBUTION

Description based on Webb et al. (1988)

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REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb, C. J.; Sykes, W. R.; Garnock-Jones, P. J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. 4. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/disphyma-papillatum/>

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