

Crassula moschata

COMMON NAME

shore stonecrop

SYNONYMS

Tillaea moschata (G.Forst.) DC.

FAMILY

Crassulaceae

AUTHORITY

Crassula moschata G.Forst.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

CRAMOS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand common from the south Wellington coastline south, including the Chathams and other subantarctic islands. Also reported from Mayor Island (Bay of Plenty).

Common in southern Chile, Argentina, The Falklands. Uncommon in Australia.

HABITAT

Strictly coastal. On wave washed rock platforms, reefs, coastal cliffs faces, and damp peaty seepages and tidal creeks - always within the influence of salt spray.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



Point Somes, Chatham islands. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Crassula moschata in flower, Catlins. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb forming small to very large and extensive loose or dense mats, sometimes several metres in diameter; stems decumbent, rooting at nodes, ascending at tips, much-branched. Leaves connate at base, very variable, 2.0-12.0 × 1.2-3.4 mm, c.0.7 mm thick, narrowly oblong-spathulate or narrowly oblong-elliptic, sometimes elliptic, flattened above, weakly convex beneath; apex obtuse. Flowers solitary in leaf axils, star-like, sweetly fragrant, 4-merous, 4-6 mm diameter; pedicels 1-3 mm long at anthesis, not elongating at fruiting. Calyx lobes 1.0-1.8 × 0.5-0.6 mm, ovate or triangular-ovate, obtuse. Petals 2.0-3.5 × 1.2-1.7 mm, broadly obovate-elliptic to suborbicular, white or white with pink flush towards base, obtuse, much > calyx. Scales 0.8-0.9 mm long, oblong-cuneate to almost linear and only slightly wider towards apex. Follicles smooth. Seeds 0.5-0.7 mm long

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

Throughout the year

LIFE CYCLE

Minute follicles are dispersed by wind and water and possibly also by attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from rooted pieces and stem cuttings. Does best in damp soils in semi-shade, except in cool climates.

ETYMOLOGY

crassula: From the Latin crassus 'thick', meaning 'rather thick'

moschata: Musky

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Webb et al. (1988).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. DSIR Botany Division, Christchurch.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/crassula-moschata/>