

Kalanchoe pinnata

COMMON NAME

air plant

SYNONYMS

Bryophyllum pinnatum (Lam.) Oken

FAMILY

Crassulaceae

AUTHORITY

Kalanchoe pinnata (Lam.) Pers.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Grows behind beaches on sand, forming dense stands in open places, also occurs in light shade under forest.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A succulent that grows to about 1 m tall, with basal rosette. Stem is purple with green flecks, becoming slightly woody. Leaves are fleshy and alternate, coarsely toothed but rounded, edges of leaves are purple. Flowers occur in corymb/raceme and are bell-like and pendulous. Flower has four fused sepals with pointed tips; four fused petals are red and pointed at tip and green at base. Eight stamens with green filaments and purple anthers; four pistils stuck very close together are much shorter than stamen.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from *B. delagoense* by the flat broadly elliptic leaves, uniform green or reddish-green, with prominent purple crenate margins.

FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, April, May

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

YEAR NATURALISED

1977

ORIGIN

Probably Madagascar but long naturalised in other tropical regions

ETYMOLOGY

pinnata: From the Latin pinna 'feather', in botany pinnatus 'pinnate' refers to an arrangement of leaves, veins or branches in rows along a central axis, similar to the structure of a feather.



Bryophyllum pinnatum. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.



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Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Reproduction

Flowers freely, but seed is doubtfully fertile. Probably vegetative spread.

Dispersal

Water, gravity.

Tolerances

Tolerates coastal conditions. Probably not hardy enough for southern regions of mainland NZ.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/kalanchoe-pinnata/>