

Carpobrotus glaucescens

COMMON NAME

pig face

SYNONYMS

Mesembryanthemum glaucescens Haw.

FAMILY

Mesembryanthemaceae

AUTHORITY

Carpobrotus glaucescens (Haw.) Schwantes

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

CARGLC

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

2009 | Non-resident Native – Coloniser | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous: New Zealand: North Island (Coromandel Peninsula, Otama). Present also in Australia, Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands.

HABITAT

Mainly a strand line species of sandy beaches which occasionally colonises coastal headlands, or grows under coastal forest

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Succulent, glabrous perennial. Stems prostrate, widely spreading, rooting at nodes. Leaves opposite, triquetrous, very succulent, basally connate, ensheathing stem, 30-100 × 8-15 mm, light-green, faintly glaucous, adaxial and lateral faces flat, lamina becoming convex toward base; keel crenulate in upper portion, otherwise smooth. Flowers solitary, terminal, 40-60 mm diameter. Pedicels 10-30 mm long. Sepals 5 with 2 larger than the others, triquetrous and opposite, smaller 3 with membranous margins. Petals numerous, magenta, white at base. Stamens 300-400, 5-6-seriate. Styles 7-10. Fruit fleshy, indehiscent, ellipsoidal, 20-30 mm long, reddish, edible, tasting of strawberries.

SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from the other two naturalised species in New Zealand, *C. chilensis* and *C. edulis* by the glaucescent leaves, and smaller (40-60 mm diameter cf. 65-100 mm diameter) magenta rather than purple (*C. chilensis*) or yellow (*C. edulis*) flowers.



Carpobrotus glaucescens. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Carpobrotus glaucescens. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

Throughout the year

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces, fruits and by the division of established plants.

THREATS

Carpobrotus glaucescens has been controlled as a weed species within its only known New Zealand locations. At the time this was done it had not been considered that it might be a natural, self-introduction. It is not known if it now survives in the wild in New Zealand.

ETYMOLOGY

carpobrotus: From the Greek karpos 'fruit' and brotus 'edible', the fruits of some species being edible.

glaucescens: Becoming glaucous

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (12 December 2007). Description adapted from Green (1994) supplemented with observations made from live plants and herbarium specimens.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Green, P.S. 1994: Flora of Australia Volume 49, Oceanic Islands 1. Canberra, Australian Government Publishing Service

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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carpobrotus-glaucens/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carpobrotus-glaucens/>