

# Crassula multicava subsp. multicava

## COMMON NAME

fairy crassula

## FAMILY

Crassulaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Crassula multicava* Lem. subsp. *multicava*

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous perennial herb; stems prostrate, creeping, sprawling or decumbent, rooting at nodes. Leaves shortly petiolate, sometimes with petioles to 2 cm long, mostly on distal ascending part of stems, not decussate or imbricate except in small rosettes at stem apices, to 45-(55) x 40-(43)mm, broadly ovate, broadly oblong-elliptic, to suborbicular or almost square, flat, entire, green or glaucescent, often suffused with red, especially towards margins, dotted with numerous whitish or reddish hydathodes; base rounded, truncate or subcordate; apex rounded or more or less emarginate. Inflorescence a loose thyrse, to about 10 cm long but very variable in size; main axis with very small bracts. Flowers 5-merous, 8-12 mm diameter, usually 12-numerous, on pedicels slightly < to = flowers. Calyx 1.5-2 mm long; lobes triangular. Carolla star-like, petals free and patent, (4)-5-6 x 1-2 mm, narrowly triangular or triangular-lanceolate, rose to crimson in bud, pale pink inside at anthesis; apex acute. Stamens 3-4 mm long, < carpels. Scales 0.2-0.3 mm long, more or less rectangular (wider than long). Fruits and seeds not seen, but flowers often replaced by small plantlets in inflorescence branch axils. (Webb et al 1988).

## FLOWERING

August, September, October, November, December, January, February

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Spreads vegetatively to form dense cover. Plantlets on flowerheads drop off and develop. Seed not observed in NZ.

## YEAR NATURALISED

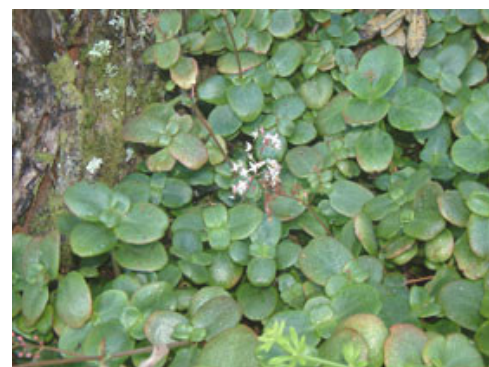
1959

## ORIGIN

South Africa



Papa Aroha, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Papa Aroha, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

**This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord.** The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

## MORE INFORMATION

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