

Crassula orbicularis

FAMILY

Crassulaceae

AUTHORITY

Crassula orbicularis L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Known only from one place. Rangitoto Island where scattered plants grew in and around the entrance to an old quarry pit. All plants seen were removed. No plants present in 2006.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

YEAR NATURALISED

2005

ORIGIN

South Africa

ETYMOLOGY

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

Reason For Introduction

Horticultural - often sold in garden centres (often wrongly named as *C. rosularis* Haw. or even *Aeonium xhaworthii*)

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial succulent herb

Reproduction

Asexually through stolons and possibly by seed

Seed

Miniscule, long-lived of variable viability in New Zealand samples examined

Dispersal

Probably a cultivation escape and/or garden discard. It is slow growing in winter but can grow very fast in summer. The stolons disarticulate readily

Tolerances

Moderately drought tolerant but dislikes cold (even in Auckland).

MORE INFORMATION

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



Crassula orbicularis young plant at rosette stage, Ex Cult. Old Quarry Pit, Rangitoto Island. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 16/09/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Crassula orbicularis showing inflorescence just prior to anthesis, Ex Cult. Old Quarry Pit, Rangitoto Island. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 16/09/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.