

Crassula sinclairii

COMMON NAME

Sinclair's stonecrop

SYNONYMS

Tillaea sinclairii Hook.f., *T. novae-zelandiae* var. *obtusa* Kirk, *T. novae-zelandiae* Petrie

FAMILY

Crassulaceae

AUTHORITY

Crassula sinclairii (Hook.f.) A.P.Druce et D.R.Given

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

CRASIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 30, 56

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to alpine, Aquatic in slow flowing rivers, creeks, ponds, tarns and lakes, and also in brackish lagoons, and waterways. Usually in places where it is submerged for most of the year.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).



Crassula sinclairii in flower, east side L Wairarapa. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Falls Dam Central Otago. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb forming small to large extensive finely filamentous thread-like mats; stems almost prostrate except for slightly ascending tips, freely rooting at nodes, much-branched. Leaves connate at base, 0.5-2.0 × 0.2-0.5 mm, c.0.2 mm thick, lanceolate-oblong, lanceolate-elliptic or oblanceolate, flattened above, strongly convex below; apex acute. Flowers solitary in leaf axils, star-like, 4-merous, sweetly fragrant, 2.5-3.5 mm diameter; pedicels 0.5-3.0 mm long, elongating little at fruiting. Calyx lobes 0.4-0.6 × c.4 mm, broadly ovate, obtuse or subacute. Petals 1.0-1.8 × 0.5-0.9 mm, broadly ovate or triangular-ovate, white, often flushed pink, obtuse, much > calyx. Scales c.0.5 mm long, oblong-cuneate or oblanceolate. Follicles smooth. Seed 0.30-0.45 mm long.

FLOWERING

October - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

November - June

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces but difficult to maintain and not especially attractive.

ETYMOLOGY

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

sinclairii: After Sinclair (c. 1796-1861). Colonial Secretary and naturalist.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

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.

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* 11: 285-309.

MORE INFORMATION

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