

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora

COMMON NAME

montbretia

FAMILY

Iridaceae

AUTHORITY

Crocosmia x crocosmiiflora (G.Nicholson) N.E.Br.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Prefers moist soils (Fromont and King, 1992). Streams, forest margins, alluvial plains, roadsides, gravel pits, wasteland, slips, light gaps, shrublands (Fromont and King, 1992).

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stiff, leafy, clump-forming, evergreen or summergreen perennial with underground rhizomes. Corms flattened, 35 x 15 mm, fibrous cover, light brown, in 3+ clusters at stem base. Leaves all arising from base, erect to curving above, 90 x 2 cm, firm, sword-shaped, mid-vein conspicuous. Flowerhead tall, zig-zag shaped. Flowers solitary, 6 petals, 3 cm long, orange to crimson, Jan-Feb. Seed capsule 3-sided, 5 mm long; with reddish-brown, flat-triangular, 3 mm seeds.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to several other monocot herbs with orange flowers. Tends to have a droopy habit and has flowers arranged in a single plane. Lacks the Bulbils of *Watsonia bulbilifera*. *Chasmanthe floribunda* is also similar but leaves and stems are more robust.

FLOWERING

January, February

FLOWER COLOURS

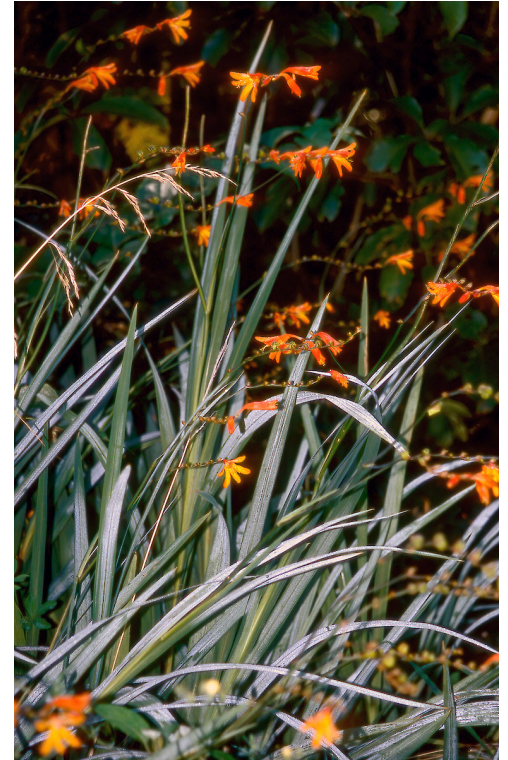
Orange, Red/Pink

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial; produces strap-like leaves in winter which die down in the summer months (Fromont and King, 1992). Reproduces by two means: produces small cormils on the flower head and sends out creeping rhizomes to extend the colony (Fromont and King, 1992). New cormils are also produced on the original corms which are able to be transported by any soil disturbance (ibid.). Produces no seed, dispersed by soil movement (road graders, fill), vegetation dumping, water movement (ibid.).

YEAR NATURALISED

1935



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Crococsmia x crocosmiiflora. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ORIGIN

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REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Moderate to highly tolerant of shade; tolerant of frost and moderately dry conditions (Fromont and King, 1992).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/crocosmia-crocosmiiflora/>