

# Ruschia geminiflora

## COMMON NAME

Loose-flowered pigface, purple vygie

## SYNONYMS

Mesembryanthemum geminatum Jacq. (later homonym), not of Haw. (1803), Mesembryanthemum geminatum Salm-Dyck, Mesembryanthemum geminiflorum Haw.; Echinus geminatus L. Bol. Has been known in NZ as *Ruschia tumidula* (Haw.) Schwantes, but this is a different species.

## FAMILY

Aizoaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ruschia geminiflora* (Haw.) Schwantes

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Sub-shrub with succulent leaves and bright mauve-purple flowers

## DISTRIBUTION

Occasional escape from cultivation in coastal dunes, perhaps from garden refuse

## HABITAT

Coastal dunes

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Succulent sub-shrub with weak branches rooting at nodes where they touch the ground. Leaves triquetrous, green, apically recurved. Flowers paired or in cymes, petals purple; filaments white, purple in the middle, anthers pale. Not known to establishing from seed in the wild in NZ.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Numerous other 'succulents' in F. Aizoaceae, including in the genera *Ruschia* and *Lampranthus*.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy by cuttings or rooted layered pieces

## YEAR NATURALISED

1981 (recorded as *R. tumidula*)

## ORIGIN

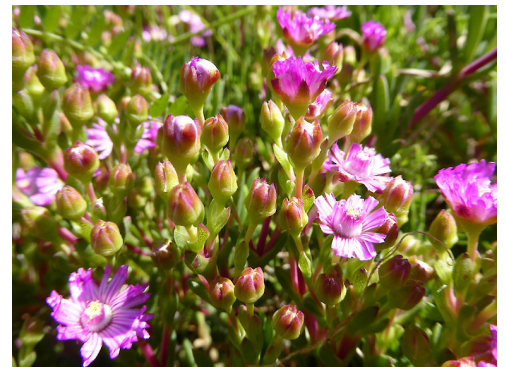
Western Cape, South Africa

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ruschia-geminiflora/>



Upright, semi-woody succulent; long-established garden discard in Koitiata dunes, Turakina. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 03/10/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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