

# Spergularia tasmanica

## COMMON NAME

New Zealand sea spurrey, native sea spurrey

## SYNONYMS

*Lepigonum tasmanicum* Kindb.

## FAMILY

Caryophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Spergularia tasmanica* (Kindb.) L.G.Adams

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 72$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand (North, South and Stewart Islands) and Australia (Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania)

## HABITAT

Coastal (rarely inland in lowland saline areas). A locally common, often sparsely distributed species of mudflats (especially the upper *Sarcocornia* dominated reaches of estuaries), also on consolidated sand, cliff faces and rubble slopes.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial with thick, woody rootstock. Branches erect to ± decumbent from base. Leaves 10-60(-80) × 1-2 mm, yellow-green to ± green or reddish green, flattened, mucronate to shortly caudate, glabrous to sparsely glandular-ciliate. Stipules (3-)4-6(-7) mm long, acute to acuminate, sometimes furcate, shortly connate in the inflorescence. Inflorescence lax, densely invested in glandular hairs (0.1-)0.15-0.25(-0.5) mm long. Pedicels much longer than sepals. Sepals 3.0-3.5(-5.0) mm (mostly 4-6 mm long in fruit), ovate-lanceolate; glaucescent, occasionally with dark purple spots at base. Petals c.4 mm long, pink or mauve soon fading to white flushed pink or white. Stamens 5-10. Capsules 6-9 mm long (up to 2 mm longer than sepals), ovoid. Seeds 0.7-0.9(-1.1) mm long, dark grey-brown to jet black, pyriform to orbicular, bluntly to prominently colliculate-papillose, usually all scariously winged (rarely all wingless or some wingless in same capsule), the wing margin centre to erose-denticulate.



Motumorirau, Coromandel. November.  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Motumorirau, Coromandel. November.  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### **SIMILAR TAXA**

Distinguished from the allied, naturalised *S. media* by the black or dark grey-brown, colliculate-papillose seeds. Those of *S. media* are rust-brown and smooth.

### **FLOWERING**

July - June

### **FLOWER COLOURS**

Red/Pink, White

### **FRUITING**

July - June

### **PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**

Easily grown from fresh seed. Needs full sun and a free draining but moist soil to flourish.

### **ETYMOLOGY**

**tasmanica**: Named after Abel Janzoon Tasman (1603-1659) who in the 17th century was the first European to sight Van Dieman's land (now known as Tasmania)

### **WHERE TO BUY**

Not commercially available.

### **NOTES ON TAXONOMY**

Previously this indigenous plant had been known as *Spergularia media* (L.) C.Presl. *Spergularia media* is an allied European species which is now considered to be naturalised to Australasia.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (Updated 8 May 2011). Description adapted from Adams et al. (2008).

### **REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**

Adams, L.G.; West, J.G.; Cowley, K.J. 2008: Revision of *Spergularia* (Caryophyllaceae) in Australia. Australian Systematic Botany 21: 251-270. Flora of Australia

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Spergularia tasmanica* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/spergularia-tasmanica/> (Date website was queried)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/spergularia-tasmanica/>