



Solanum aviculare var. *aviculare*

Common Name(s):

poroporo

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Declining

Distribution:

Indigenous. Kermadec, North, South and Chatham Islands. In the South Island south to about Banks Peninsula and Westland. Also present on Norfolk (Extinct), Lord Howe (Extinct) and eastern Australia and New Guinea. Naturalised in at least China and Russia, probably elsewhere.

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland (0-400 m a.s.l.). Usually in open shrubland, in and around sea bird nesting grounds, seal haul outs, or along forest margins. Sometimes an urban weed.

Features*:

Small, softly woody shrub up to 3 x 2 m. Branches sparse to many, suberect to spreading, initially dark green, purple-green to reddish-brown, maturing with fine grey, chartaceous bark. Leaves alternate with decurrent, fleshy petioles up to 30 mm long; lamina fleshy-membranous to almost coriaceous, 40-400 x 10-15(-20) mm, dark green, purple-green or rarely yellow-green, narrowly lanceolate to elliptic, entire, or deeply 1-3(-4)-lobed to pinnatifid; lobes/pinnae broadly lanceolate. Flowers axillary in 1-3 few to many-flowered cymes. Calyx lobes short, broad, spreading. Corolla broadly campanulate to rotate, up to 40 mm diameter; tube up to 10 mm long, funnellform, widely flaring at mouth, lobes 10-15 mm, lanceolate; white, lavender, or dark blue, in all cases usually fading to white after anthesis. Filaments up to 5 mm long. Anthers 3-6 mm long, oblong, spreading, yellow, opening by apical slits. Berry 15-25 mm long, broadly ovoid to ellipsoid, maturing yellow or orange, fleshy, pendent; stone cells sparse, inconspicuous. Seeds 1.3-2 mm long, dull to semi-glossy, orange-brown, purple-brown or dark purple brown, obovate to circular or transversely elliptic, often asymmetric, compressed.

Flowering:

Throughout the year

Fruiting:

Throughout the year

Threats:

It has been observed that var. *aviculare* is becoming less common in the northern North Island though why is not clear. A full nationwide conservation assessment is needed to clarify its exact status.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 12 May 2006. Description by P.J. de Lange with some elements based on Allan (1961) and Webb et al. (1988).

References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ 1988. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2263



Caption: Close up of *Solanum aviculare* var. *aviculare* flowers showing acute corolla lobes

Photographer: Peter de Lange, 9 Dec 2006, Mangaonua Gully, Hamilton.



Caption: *Solanum aviculare* var. *aviculare* in flower

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