



Spergularia tasmanica

Common Name(s):

New Zealand sea spurrey, native sea spurrey

Current Threat Status (2012):

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.

Features*:

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.

Flowering:

July - June

Fruiting:

July - June

Threats:

Not Threatened

*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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2265



Caption: *Spergularia tasmanica*
Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Motumorirau,
Coromandel. November
Photographer: John Smith-
Dodsworth