



## *Tetragonia implexicoma*

### **Common Name(s):**

native spinach

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Not Threatened

### **Distribution:**

Indigenous. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands (Herald Islets, Raoul, Macauley Islands), Three Kings, North, South and Chatham Islands. Also Australia, Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands

### **Habitat:**

Coastal to montane. Mostly found in coastal areas occupying a variety of habitats from cobble and sand beaches through coastal forest and shrubland, also found in exposed windshorn vegetation on cliffs and rock stacks. Occasionally found growing well inland, sometimes in farmland where it grows in barberry (*Berberis* spp.) hedges or on limestone and calcareous sandstone outcrops in otherwise dense forest.

### **Features\*:**

Prostrate or scrambling subshrub forming straggling to dense leafy patches up to 4 m long. Stems long trailing, terete, initially somewhat succulent, and often coloured red or pink, maturing dark green to brown-black and becoming woody with age. Leaves alternate, often clustered, sometimes widely spaced along stems, fleshy, papillose; petiole 3-15(-20) mm long; lamina 20-50(-80) × (8-)10-30(-46) mm, ovate-rhomboid to lanceolate, to linear-lanceolate, adaxially dark green, green to almost glaucescent, abaxially paler, sometimes flushed pink. Flowers solitary; pedicels slender, 5-30 mm long. Perianth lobes 4, (1.8-)2.8-3.0(-3.6) mm long, oblong, abaxially papillose-hairy, adaxially finely papillose, yellow. Stamens 12-20. Ovary semi-inferior; locules and styles 2(-3). Fruit 5-8 mm long, succulent, pink to dark red, subglobose.

### **Flowering:**

September - June

### **Fruiting:**

September - July

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened. A widespread and common species throughout most of coastal New Zealand.

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 24 October 2011. Description by P.J. de Lange.

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2269](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2269)



**Caption:** Awhitu Peninsula, Auckland region

**Photographer:** John Sawyer



**Caption:** North Otago, April

**Photographer:** John Barkla