



Thyridia repens

Common Name(s):

Native musk, Maori musk, Native monkey flower

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North and South Islands. Also Australia

Habitat:

Strictly coastal. Usually at the back of salt marshes and estuaries, in permanently damp or soggy, saline mud or silt soils in locations that are periodically flooded during high, spring or King tides. Sometimes in dune swales. Intolerant of much competition from taller plants or faster growing mat-forming species.

Features*:

Mat-forming, succulent, perennial herb. All parts glabrous. Stems dark green to red-green, prostrate, sometimes ascending at apices, rooting at nodes. Leaves sessile, amplexicaul, c. 2-8 x 1-6 mm, dark green, brown-green to reddish-green, broadly ovate-oblong, entire, punctuate, somewhat succulent. Flowers on short, ascending branches, solitary in leaf axils; pedicels 2-8 mm long, dark green to pinkish-green. Calyx 2-7 mm long, < corolla tube, broadly funneliform; apex truncate, minutely toothed. Corolla 10-15 mm long, distinctly 2-lipped. light purple, mauve, lilac or white, red-spotted with yellow open throat; lower lip bearded; lobes shallow, broader than long. Capsule 6.5 mm long, broadly cylindrical.

Flowering:

September - February

Fruiting:

November - May

Threats:

A widespread, naturally uncommon, biologically sparse species. It is most uncommon in the northern North Island becoming progressively more abundant south of the Waikato, although it is still often absent over large parts of the country. In some parts of its range, particularly metropolitan Auckland, populations have been lost through road realignments (where they cross salt marshes e.g., the upper Waitemata Harbour) or through land reclamation. The spread of the aggressive salt grasses (*Spartina* spp.) and *Carex divisa*. is also a risk in some parts of its range. Nevertheless, these range contractions are insufficient nationally to justify an upgrade to one of the three threat categories.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 8 August 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961).

References and further reading:

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

Barker, W.R.; Nesom, G.L.; Beardsley, P.M.; Fraga, N.S. 2012: A taxonomic conspectus of Phrymaceae: A narrowed circumscriptions for *Mimulus*, new and resurrected genera, and new names and combinations. *Phytoneuron* 1-60.

Gardner, R. 1988. *Mimulus repens*. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 43: 67

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=286



Caption: Hoopers Inlet, Otago Peninsula

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Tiwai Peninsula, Southland (flowers)

Photographer: Jesse Bythell