



Scaevola gracilis

Common Name(s):

Scaevola

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: Kermadec Islands group (Raoul and Macauley Islands). Also present on the Ha"apai Group (Kao and Tofua) in the northern Tonga Group

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland. A primary coloniser of bare rock, boulder field, sand dunes, talus slopes and cliff faces - also growing around active fumaroles.

Features*:

Creeping, prostrate to suberect, semi-woody shrub forming patches up to 2 × 1 m. Branches widely spreading, clad in long silky hairs; branchlets slightly zigzag, hairs long, silky, ± appressed. Leaves on pilose, dark green to red-green flattened petioles up to 25 mm long, axils villous. Lamina 20-90 × 10-35 mm long, obliquely lanceolate-oblong to obovate, base narrowly cuneate, apex acute, upper 1/2 - 1/3 serrate-dentate; dark green to yellow green, sometimes reddish green or streaked with red, silky-hairy. Flowers usually solitary, subsessile, up to 25 mm across, faintly fragrant. Calyx cupular, indistinctly lobed. Corolla white with yellow throat; tube short, villous; lobes narrow-oblong, mucronate. Stamens < tube; style pilose; pollen-cup with fimbriate margins. Drupe white, fleshy, 10.0-10.5 × 8.0-10.5 mm, ovoid to subglobose. Seeds compressed, c.3 mm. long

Flowering:

Throughout the year

Fruiting:

Throughout the year

Threats:

A naturally uncommon species confined in the New Zealand Botanical Region to the Kermadec Islands, where it is locally abundant.

*Attribution:

Description modified from Allan (1961).

References and further reading:

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=674



Caption: *Scaevola gracilis*, Macauley Island.

Photographer: John Barkla



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