



## *Sprengelia incarnata*

### Common Name(s):

Pink swamp heath

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: South Island (Fiordland National Park (Chalky-Dusky Peninsula (Wilson River-Macnamara Creek Saddle), Resolution Island (Five Fingers Peninsula)). Also Australia (Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales)

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane in open, windswept, tussock-bog containing kahikatoa (*Leptospermum scoparium*), yellow silver pine (*Lepidothamnus intermedius*), *Dracophyllum longifolium*, *Gleichenia dicarpa*, *Sphagnum* moss, and *Bulbinella gibbsii* var. *balanifera*

### Features\*:

Spindly, erect, sparingly branched, glabrous shrubs, up to 2 m tall, sometimes low and spreading. Young stems honey-brown to reddish brown, smooth, older stems grey-brown or grey. Leaves persistent, eventually falling on older branches leaving a smooth surface without leaf scars; imbricate, with broad sheathing base completely enclosing stem, lamina bronze-green, green to yellow-green, at first widening broader than sheath and then tapering to hard, pungent tip, concave, rigid, spreading, 7-20(-25) mm long. Flowers solitary, terminal on short lateral branches, crowded toward the end of the main branches, inflorescences ovate, bracts numerous, foliose, similar to but smaller than leaves, sometimes obscuring flowers. Sepals and petals 5, equal, 5-10(-12) mm long, spreading widely at anthesis. Sepals, rigid, lanceolate, scarious, pale pink or greenish. Corolla-tube very short or formed from the petals which are free at the base, and then cohering to form a short tube above; if tube present then lobes long, narrowly lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, spreading, dark pink. Stamens 5, inserted on the receptacle, cohering to form a tube around the style, filaments pink or pinkish-white ± flattened upper 1/2-1/4 papillose-hairy; anther basifixed, bilocular dehiscing along a single longitudinal slit, pollen dark orange yellow to orange-brown. Nectary absent. Ovary 5-locular. Style filiform, = to slightly longer than stamens, pink; stigma capitate, scarcely wider than style, dark carmine. Fruit a dry, yellow-grown, subcylindrical capsule.

### Flowering:

Throughout the year

### Fruiting:

Throughout the year

### Threats:

A Naturally Uncommon, Range-restricted species locally abundant within its few known habitats. There are no known threats. All known populations occur within Fiordland National Park.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange 27 June 2006. Description drawn up from herbarium specimens held at AK and CHR. Useful information on the Fiordland populations of *Sprengelia* can be found in Moore (1969).

### References and further reading:

Moore, L.B. 1969: *Sprengelia incarnata* Sm: an Australian Plant in Fiordland. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 7: 96-99.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=690](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=690)



**Caption:** Coal Burn, 250m asl.

**Photographer:** Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls



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