

Fuchsia procumbens

COMMON NAME

creeping fuchsia, climbing fuchsia, trailing fuchsia

SYNONYMS

Fuchsia kirkii Hook.f.

FAMILY

Onagraceae

AUTHORITY

Fuchsia procumbens A.Cunn.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

FUCPRO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island from the Ninety Mile Beach and Perpendicular Point south to Maunganui Bluff in the west and Kennedy Bay (Coromandel Peninsula) in the east. It is known as a naturalised plant on Kapiti Island.

HABITAT

A strictly coastal species. *F. procumbens* has been collected from cobble/gravel beaches, coastal cliff faces, coastal scrub and grassland, dune slacks and swales, and from the margins of saltmarshes (in places where it would be inundated during spring tides). It is quite tolerant of naturalised grasses and may be found growing amongst dense swards of kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum clandestinum* Chiov.).

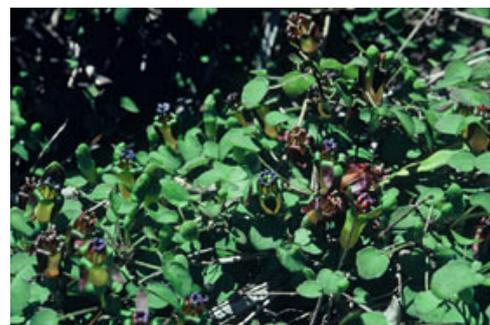
WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Photo taken by John Smith-Dodsworth.
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Kennedy Bay. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subdioecious, lianoid, creeping, glabrescent, prostrate shrub forming large scrambling masses. Stems woody, pliant, slender 3-6 mm diameter, up to 2 m long; branchlets even more slender. Petioles filiform, 15-30 mm long, glabrous or sparsely hairy. Leaves 5-20 x 5-20 mm, suborbicular to broad-ovate, membranous, glabrous to glabrate, sinuate, subserrulate; base subcordate; apex obtuse or rounded. Flowers solitary, erect, pedicels erect, 5-8 mm long, slender. Flora tube 6-12 mm long, golden yellow, tubular-campanulate. Sepals 5-8 mm, lanceolate or narrow-lanceolate, purplish at apices, sharply reflexed. Petals absent. Filaments 2-4 mm, slender, purple. Style 8-16 mm, > staminodes in female flowers, almost = to stamens in perfect flowers; stigma capitate to 4-lobed. Berry 15-25 x 5-10 mm, ovoid-oblong to obovoid, crimson to magenta often with a waxy bloom.

SIMILAR TAXA

None.

FLOWERING

September - May

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, Yellow

FRUITING

November - July

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries are dispersed by invertebrate frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from layered pieces, fresh seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. A remarkably adaptable plant that can be grown in most situations. It makes an excellent ground cover and is ideal for a hanging basket.

THREATS

At various times regarded as seriously threatened, partly because some populations comprise only the single sex-type. However, comprehensive surveys throughout this species range have discovered new populations and confirmed the persistence of the majority of the older sites. Indeed its range has hardly contracted, and it would seem that the distribution of sex-types is natural. Because the species is so tolerant of environmental disturbance and weeds it is now regarded as biologically sparse. However, some populations have been eliminated recently by coastal development for holiday homes. If this trend continues then this species will probably qualify for a higher level of threat in the not to distant future.

ETYMOLOGY

fuchsia: After Leonhart Fuchs (17 Jan 1501 - 10 May 1566), a German physician and regarded as one of the three founding fathers of botany.

procumbens: Sprawling

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/fuchsia-procumbens/>