

# *Crassula moschata*



*Crassula moschata*.  
S. Harris.

**FAMILY:** CRASSULACEAE

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Crassula moschata*,  
G.Forst., *Commentat. Soc. Regiae Sci. Gott.*  
9: 26 (1789)

**COMMON NAME:** musky stonecrop

**COMMONWEALTH STATUS:** (EPBC  
Act) Not Listed

**TASMANIAN STATUS:** (TSP Act) rare

## Description

This species is a mat forming, hairless, succulent herb. **Stems:** The main stems trail along the ground, rooting at the nodes (stem joints). The lateral stems are erect. **Leaves:** The leaves are spoon to lance-shaped with the upper leaves concave and the lower leaves convex. They are reddish at least at the base and between 2.8-4.2 mm long and 1.1-1.5 mm wide. **Flowers:** The inflorescence is reduced to a single flower in the axil (where leaf meets the stem) of one of the upper leaves. The flowers have four parts (petals, sepals etc). The flower stalks are between 1.5-2.1 long. The sepals (outermost whorl of floral parts) are shortly joined at the base and pink in colour. The petals are approximately 2.5 mm long and white. There are four stamens (male parts). This species flowers from January to March. **Fruit:** The fruit have 4 seeds, each one is approximately 0.8 mm long and roughly oval in shape with a base or tip that appears to have been cut straight across (description from Flora of Australia 1993). Most herbarium specimens have been collected from November to February.

## Ecology and Management

The south-west of Tasmania is aligned with circum-global currents that flow within the Southern Ocean. These same currents assist plant dispersal to the Sub-Antarctic Islands. Species such as *Crassula moschata* use the ocean currents in order to establish propagules along the coastline of Tasmania. *Crassula moschata* is a vagrant and may not be found in the same place every year (S. Harris pers. comm.). Threats to this species include the degradation of coastal habitat through land clearing, erosion and weed invasion.

## Conservation Status Assessment

There is no immediate need for reassessment of *Crassula moschata*.

**Further Information**

- Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions 1984, *An Annotated Atlas of the Vascular Flora of Macquarie Island*, Australian Antarctic Division, Hobart.
- Flora of Australia 1993, *Volume 50: Oceanic Islands 2*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

*Preceding text last modified 3/9/2003.*

*Following updated 21/9/2016.*

**Survey Time and Habitat Guide** (*black = best, dark grey = possible, light grey with slash=poor time to survey, as guided by collection dates of specimens and records*)

<i>Crassula moschata</i>	Spring					Summer					Autumn					Winter								
musky stonecrop	S	S	O	O	N	N	D	D	J	J	F	F	M	M	A	A	M	M	J	J	J	J	A	A

- Reproductive stems are required to confirm the identity of this mat forming, hairless, succulent herb. This species flowers from January to March. Most herbarium specimens have been collected from late November to late February.
- *Crassula moschata* is found in the littoral zone on beach rock stacks along the coast, on humic sandy soils on rocky shores and thin peaty soil on beach pebbles. In Tasmania, *Crassula moschata* is often found near fresh water run-off and pools.

**Distribution**

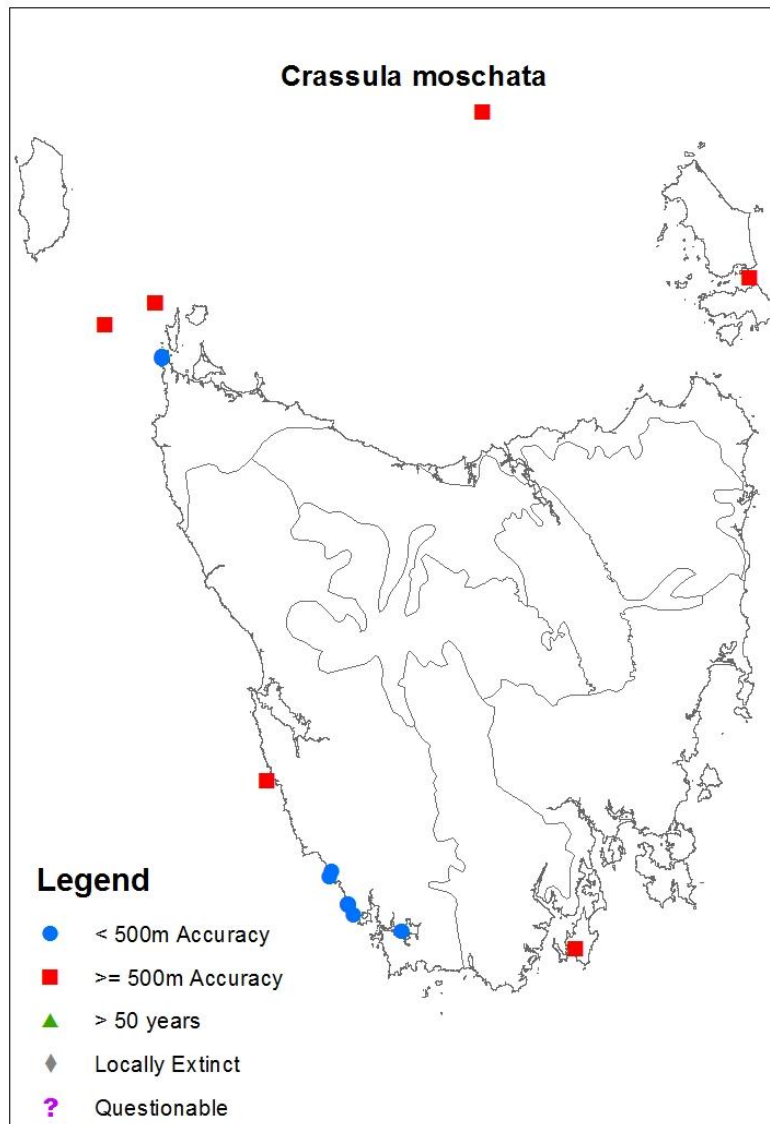
This species occurs in South America, Falkland, Marion, Prince Edward, Crozet and Kerguelen Islands, New Zealand (North, South, Chatham, Stuart, Snares, Campbell, Auckland and Antipodes Islands). In Australian territory, *Crassula moschata* occurs on Macquarie Island and the Tasmanian mainland and its offshore islands.

**Known Reserves**

Reserved in the Albatross Island Nature Reserve, Black Pyramid Rock Nature Reserve, Southwest National Park and Macquarie Island Nature Reserve.

## Tasmanian Distribution (also on Macquarie Island)

(Natural Values Atlas May 2015)



### Cite as:

Threatened Species Section (2016). *Notesheet for Crassula moschata (musky stonecrop)*. Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania.

### View

<http://www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/threatenedspecieslists>

### Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 6165 4340.

### Permit

It is an offence to collect, disturb, damage or destroy this species unless under permit.