

Carpobrotus virescens

(Haw.) Schwantes

COASTAL PIGFACE

Flowering period: June–January.**Description:** Prostrate, ground-hugging succulent to 30 cm high with plants extending up to 3 m across. Leaves erect, triangular in section, 10–12 cm long. Flowers purple to pink, occasionally white, followed by a fleshy, somewhat globular fruit that is salty sweet to taste and red when ripe containing many hundreds of small dark brown seeds in a sticky, clear mucilage.**Pollination:** Open pollinated by a variety of insect visitors.**Distribution:** Widespread and common along the south-western coastline from Kalbarri to Esperance and found on foredunes to secondary dunes. Species favours more exposed, somewhat disturbed sites.**Propagation:** Readily propagated from cuttings taken throughout the year and directly planted into moist soil in restoration sites.**Uses in restoration:** A highly useful species often overlooked in coastal restoration programs due to confusion with the highly invasive related species from South Africa, *Carpobrotus edulis*, that with yellow flowers is readily distinguished from the pink flowered native species. The ease of propagation, rapid growth, and drought- and wind-tolerance makes coastal pigface a good species for dune stabilisation programs.**Notes:** Special attention is required to ensure that the native rather than the introduced species is used in restoration programs.

R. Barrett

Habit



Fruit

Flower



Distribution