

**\**Lampranthus ? coccineus***  
**Commonly: Mesembryanthemum**  
**Vascular Plant Family: Aizoaceae**  
**Flowers in spring**

**\**Lampranthus coccineus*** is a native of South Africa. It is a prostrate, perennial plant rooting along the stems with succulent round leaves. This species is becoming dominant on a section of the foredune between Periwinkle Place and the Main Beach. It is a spectacular plant when in flower but is of major concern as it appears to be spreading relatively quickly down the dune. Presumably originally planted to help stabilize the dune.



The mature leaves are fleshy, linear and round in outline up to 6cm long and 5mm wide.



The flowers are solitary, up to 2cm across, and terminal on short branches. The calyx is fleshy with 5 distinct lobes. The leaves supporting the flowers are opposite and much shorter than the mature leaves.



It is not petals but staminodes (sterile stamens) that give the flowers their bright pink colour. In the young flowers the stamens appear to be fused but as the flowers mature the stamens open out to become free.



The fruits are red and fleshy supported by the withered calyx lobes.



\*Indicates it is a weed