

Peppy Plants August 2012

by Eleanor Bennett

Carpobrotus virescens, commonly known as Coastal Pigface is a prostrate or scrambling fleshy perennial shrub which roots at the nodes (see also [Carpobrotus virescens](#)). *Carpobrotus* is derived from the Greek, *karpos*, meaning fruit, and *brotos*, meaning edible and *virescens* meaning green. The trailing stems can be up to 1.5m long, the old stems becoming whitish/grey. The leaves are opposite and acutely triangular in cross section. The flowers are solitary, terminal and up to 5cm in diameter. There are 4 or 5 calyx lobes and no petals. The pink, petal-like structures are sterile stamens which are numerous and linear in outline. The stamens are also pink with obvious anthers. The fruit is a capsule included in the persistent floral tube, which turns red with maturity.



The bright pink flowers are obvious in this plant which is scrambling over a Dysentery Bush.



The linear, bright pink “petal-like” structure are sterile stamens, whilst in the centre of the flower are the fertile stamens.



The leaves are fleshy and triangular in cross section.



The fruit is a capsule enclosed in the fleshy floral tube. In the photograph below the persistent calyx lobes in fruit are obvious.

