

Mirror bush

Coprosma repens

January 2015

Mirror bush varies from a ground-hugging shrub on coastal cliffs to a small tree in more sheltered areas, with thick, glossy leaves.

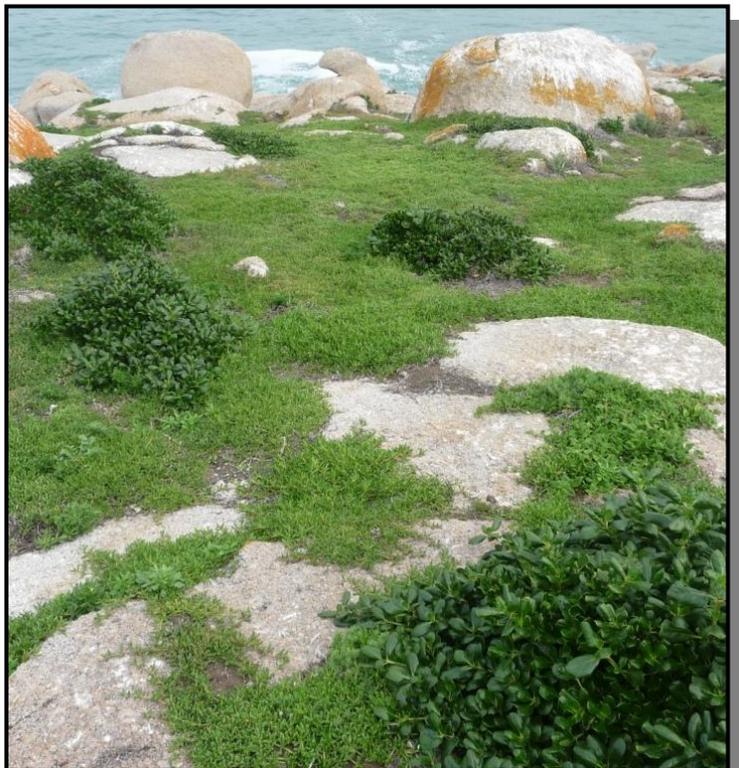
It is now declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, with a prohibition on sale throughout South Australia and enforced control in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM region.

- **Other common names:** looking glass bush, taupata, New Zealand laurel.
- **Family:** Rubiaceae
- **Synonyms:** *Coprosma baueri*
- **Origin:** New Zealand
- It was commonly planted as a hedge and screening shrub, and as a sand stabiliser along coastal areas.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Mirror bush is a significant environmental weed on the coasts of southern Australia.

- forms dense clumps which excludes and impedes regeneration of native plants
- weed of coastal environs where it tolerates exposed sites such as sand dunes and rocky headlands
- very hardy, tolerating drought, salt, frost and most soil types





DESCRIPTION

Habit: spreading shrub to small tree 2-8 m tall. **Leaves:** in opposite pairs, semi-succulent and bright green with a glossy upper surface, and duller green underneath. 2-8 cm long by 1-5 cm wide with recurved leaf margins. **Stems:** fleshy, greenish-grey stems become woody with age. **Flowers:** inconspicuous pale green or whitish clusters borne in the fork of the leaf. Separate male and female plants (dioecious). **Flowering time:** Nov-Dec. **Fruit:** Mature to orange-red, succulent, ovoid drupes, 8 mm round, containing 1-2 seeds.

HOW IT SPREADS

Mirror bush spreads by seed which is dispersed by birds, animals and garden waste dumping. This species also reproduces vegetatively by self-layering, where lower branches take root.

HABITAT

Mirror bush grows in coastal environs (sand dunes and headlands), heathlands, open woodlands, roadsides and disturbed sites.

DISTRIBUTION

Mirror bush occurs in the Eyre Peninsula, Murraylands, Yorke Peninsula, Southern Lofty, Kangaroo Island and South East regions. It is also naturalised in Tasmania, New South Wales, Western Australia and Victoria.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Seek control advice if you have this plant growing as a weed. Select alternatives to replace invasive garden plants. See 'Grow Me Instead' for suggestions. Only the green-leaved wild type is declared and *Coprosma* cultivars are not prohibited from sale. Nonetheless, non-fruiting male cultivars present a lesser weed risk.

Habitat image courtesy of Corey Jackson, Natural Resources AMLR

For more information

Contact your local Natural Resources Centre for information on controlling declared weeds:

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au

Further weed control information is also available at:

www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa

Natural Resources AMLR

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