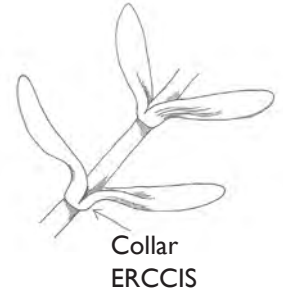


NEW ZEALAND PYGMYWEED (*Crassula helmsii*), also known as Australian swamp-stonecrop, *Tillaea recurva*, *Tillaea aquatica*, *Tillaea helmsii* or *Crassula recurva*, was introduced in 1911 as an oxygenating plant for ponds. It is increasingly found throughout Cornwall, often in quantity. It can grow as an aquatic, emergent or terrestrial plant at the water margins. The plant has different growth forms dependant on the conditions (see images below). The leaves are linear, small (up to 2 cm long) and are in opposite pairs along the stem. The leaves are fleshy when emergent or growing on land but flatter when growing submerged. Where the leaf bases join the stem there is a **collar with a dark ring** on the stem. Tiny white flowers with four petals are present from June to September.



Crassula helmsii flower
Photo: ukwildflowers.com



Terrestrial form has creeping or erect stems and yellowish green, fleshy leaves.



Emergent form densely packed leaves in the water. It is intermediate between the terrestrial and submerged forms. It occurs in water less than 60 cm deep



Submerged form elongate sparsely leaved stems. Leaves are long and flat.



Callitriche sp.
Photo: Richard Lansdown

DO NOT CONFUSE WITH

- Water-starworts (*Callitriche* species) are native species with similar shaped leaves, several of which occur in Cornwall. Water-starworts have thinner, non-fleshy leaves, lack the characteristic collar around the stem at the base of the leaves and have notched tips to the leaves (hold up to the light or use a hand lens).