Plant of the month: Creeping Monkey-flower *Thyridia repens*

Creeping Monkey-flower *Thyridia repens* is a succulent matting perennial herb, with ovate, sessile leaves to 5 mm long crowded around the rooting nodes. The bilaterally symmetric or zygomorphic 2-lipped violet flowers have a white or yellow tube that is sometimes red or purple-dotted. Flowers occur throughout the year, peaking from September to April. The many-seeded fruit capsule is ovoid. It is found in all Australian states in swampy sites and on the edges of coastal and inland saltmarsh. At Venus Bay is found along Anderson Inlet and beside the Tarwin Lower Venus Bay bike path.

Creeping Monkey-flower is a marsh plant and will tolerate inundation and saline conditions. It makes an attractive water-feature plant on the edge of a pond. Propagation is by division.

The genus *Thyridia* belongs in the Phrymaceae or Lopseed family. The species name *repens* means creeping. For further information please visit FVBP website above. Photo: Lorraine Norden.