



Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

ABN 17 536 241 485

PO Box 244 Venus Bay Vic 3956

Website: www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au

Email: friendsofvbp@gmail.com

Plant of the month: Sea Celery *Apium prostratum*



Sea Celery *Apium prostratum* is a small, trailing perennial herb with celery-like leaves and stems. There are two varieties that are often found together: *Apium prostratum* var. *filiforme*, with divided ovate or elliptic leaflets, 3-20 mm long, 2-3 times as long as wide, and *A. prostratum* var. *prostratum*, with narrow linear leaflets, entire or divided, to 6 cm long, 6-15 times as long as wide. Flowers are in white to greenish umbels 3-6 mm wide, from December to April, followed by globular fruits.



Apium prostratum var. *prostratum*



Apium prostratum var. *filiforme*

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Sea celery is common along the shores of Anderson Inlet at Venus Bay and is widespread throughout southern Australia and New Zealand, mainly in coastal saline locations.

Sea Celery grows in moist, well-drained sandy soils in full sun or semi-shade. Propagation is from seed or division. The stems and leaves can be used as a celery substitute.

Sea Celery belongs in the celery, carrot or parsley Apiaceae family. *Apium* is the Latin word for celery. The species name *prostratum* refers to its spreading habit and the variety *filiforme* is named for its fine, threadlike stems, not the leaves. Photo: Lorraine Norden. For more information visit www.friendsofvenusbaypeninsula.org.au