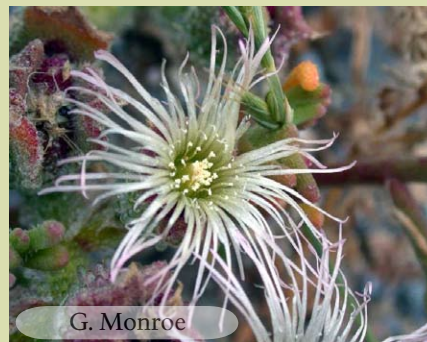




**KEY  
CHARACTERISTICS**

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| growth | Annual or biennial.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| flower | Cymes or axillary flowers, $\pm$ sessile. Flower 7–10 mm diam; hypanthium round, aging red; sepals 5, equal; petals white, aging pink.                                                                                |
| leaves | Alternate or opposite, reddish with age or stress. Glabrous, conspicuously papillate (having bumps or projections). 2–20 cm, petioled (stalked); blade flat, ovate to spoon-shaped, margin wavy, lower $\pm$ cordate. |
| stems  | Stem trailing, forked, < 1 m long.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| fruit  | 5 valved capsule, opening when wet.                                                                                                                                                                                   |



To distinguish between *M. crystallinum* and *M. nodiflorum*:  
 Leaf flat, flower 10 mm diameter = *M. crystallinum*  
 Leaf cylindric, flower 5 mm diam = *M. nodiflorum*.



Elevation:  
< 330 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:  
Desertlands & non-riparian wetlands.

## ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

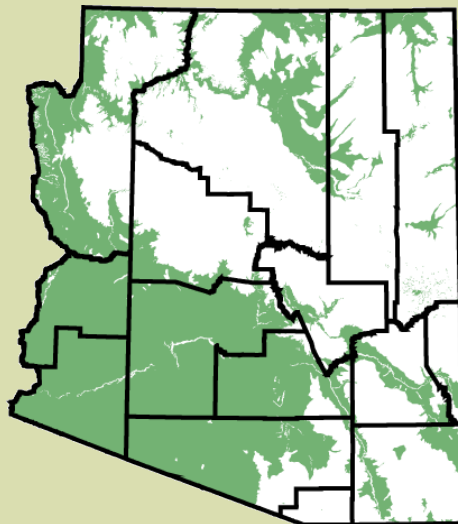
Can switch between C<sub>3</sub> & CAM photosynthesis, enabling them to adapt to high salt and arid areas and to withstand environmental stresses.

Common on coastal bluffs, cliffs and disturbed ground.

*M. crystallinum* accumulates salt throughout its life, in a gradient from the roots to the shoots, with the highest concentration stored in epidermal bladder cells (see photo at right).

The salt is released by leaching once the plant dies, resulting in a detrimental osmotic environment preventing the growth of other, non-tolerant species while allowing *M. crystallinum* seeds to germinate.

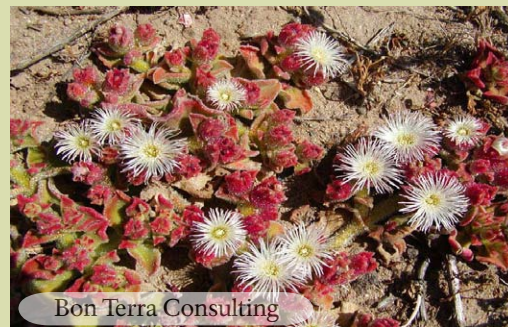
## SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.



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