

Coprosma dumosa

SYNONYMS

Coprosma parviflora var. *dumosa* Cheeseman; *Coprosma tayloriae* A.P.Druce ex G.T.Jane

FAMILY

Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY

Coprosma dumosa (Cheeseman) G.T.Jane

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

COPDMO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 132$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A bushy, small-leaved shrub with 'layered' branches; mostly common in higher rainfall montane forests and shrublands from the Kaimai Range southwards to Stewart Island." Also in the drier South Island. Leaves small, elliptic, 4-6mm long, in clusters of pairs, thick, with 1-2 pits on underside, main vein on underside reaching the leaf tip, with tiny hairs on margin in wet areas. Fruit orange or red (mostly white/translucent in North Island).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island from Kaimai Range south; South Island (rare in Fiordland), Stewart Island.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to *Coprosma* species of New Zealand](#)

SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *Coprosma parviflora* Hook.f. which differs by the undersides of leaves being distinctly hairy (glabrous to glabrescent in *C. dumosa*), violet black fruits (white, pink or yellow in *C. dumosa*), and different chromosome number ($2n = 132$ in *C. parviflora*, $2n = 88$ in *C. dumosa*). Furthermore, *C. parviflora* is confined to the northern North Island.



Huiarau range. April. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Huiarau range. April. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FLOWERING

October - November (-January)

FRUITING

February-April (-October)

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy drupes are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed, and semi-hardwood cuttings. In warmer climates does best in a shaded site or planted within a deep, moist soil.

ETYMOLOGY

coprosma: From the Greek kopros 'dung' and osme 'smell', referring to the foul smell of the species, literally 'dung smell'

dumosa: Bushy or shrubby

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/coprosma-dumosa/>