

# Carmichaelia crassicaulis subsp. crassicaulis

## COMMON NAME

Coral broom

## SYNONYMS

*Corallospartium crassicaule* (Hook.f.) J.B.Armstr.; *Corallospartium crassicaule* var. *crassicaule* (Hook.f.) J.B.Armstr.

## FAMILY

Fabaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carmichaelia crassicaulis* Hook.f. subsp. *crassicaulis*

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

## NVS CODE

CARCSC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: RF

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: RF

2004 | Gradual Decline

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rare robust shrub with erect leafless thick blunt-tipped grooved branches. Branches to 1cm in diameter, tip oval in cross section, grooves filled with white fuzz. Flowers small, pea-like, pale pink, streaked with purple. Fruit a small dry hairy pod with a long curved tip and containing 1-3 hard yellow seeds.

## DISTRIBUTION

South Island: east of the main divide.

## HABITAT

Upland and subalpine grassland, scrub and rock.

## FEATURES

Rigid shrub up to 2m tall. Branches stout, erect, yellowish-green, deeply grooved with numerous parallel hair-lined grooves. Branchlets similar but somewhat flattened, up to 1cm or more diameter, new growth densely covered in white hairs. Juvenile leaves almost round, adult leaves oblong. Plants nearly leafless when mature. Flowers creamy coloured, 6mm long, up to 20 in a tight cluster. Flower stalks and sepals covered in thick, soft, white hair. Seed pods 6-7mm long, rounded, usually one-seeded.



Photographer: Smith-Dodsworth



Photographer: Shannel Courtney

### **SIMILAR TAXA**

Other *Carmichaelia* species. *C. crassicaule* has stout, erect, grooved branches, compressed one-seeded pods and tight bundles of flowers with woolly sepals.

### **FLOWERING**

December - January

### **FLOWER COLOURS**

Cream, Violet/Purple

### **FRUITING**

March - May

### **LIFE CYCLE**

Seeds are possibly dispersed by wind and granivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

### **PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**

Easy from fresh seed. Can be grown with some difficulty from semi hardwood cuttings. Dislikes humidity and once established should not be moved.

### **ETYMOLOGY**

**carmichaelia:** After Carmichael, a botanist

### **WHERE TO BUY**

Not commercially available.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 28 October 2009. Description based on Allan (1961)

### **REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer.

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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

### **CITATION**

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carmichaelia-crassicaulis-subsp-crassicaulis/> (Date website was queried)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carmichaelia-crassicaulis-subsp-crassicaulis/>