

Carmichaelia glabrescens

COMMON NAMES

pink broom

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Shrub with many untidy erect flattened leafless greenish twigs. Twigs 2-4mm wide, smooth. Flowers pink, pea-like, in short spikes. Fruit a flattened papery dry pod containing 2-3 hard mottled seeds and which does not split open.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Leafless, spreading to upright, shrub or small tree up to 7 m tall. Branchlets slender, 120–400 × 1.8–4.0 mm, drooping, green, compressed. Leaves on branchlets reduced to a triangular scale, glabrous, < 0.8 mm long. Inflorescence a raceme, up to 30 mm long, with up to 20 flowers; pedicel 1.0–3.5 mm long, sparsely hairy. Calyx 1.5–2.4 × 1.5–2.4 mm, outer surface sparsely hairy to glabrescent, or glabrous, green; lobes 0.4–0.6 mm long, triangular. Flowers pink with dark pink veins, up to 8 mm long. Standard 7.0–7.5 × 6.3–6.6 mm, obovate, recurved; wings 5.3–7.8 × 1.0–1.7 mm, oblong, shorter than keel; keel 6.6–8.5 × 2.1–3.2 mm. Stamens 6.0–7.5 mm long. Pistil 7.8–8.4 mm long, exerted beyond stamens, ovary glabrous. Pods 8.0–28.0 × 2.8–5.2 mm, linear, laterally compressed, strongly constricted between the seeds, the seed outline not visible through the dry fruit wall, and the lower filaments are usually absent on mature fruits, indehiscent; beak up to 2.5 mm long, narrowly triangular, tapering to the persistent style; with up to 10 seeds. Seeds 2.0–3.5 mm long, reniform to reniform-triangular, light green-yellow, buff or orange-brown, often with black mottling.

SIMILAR TAXA

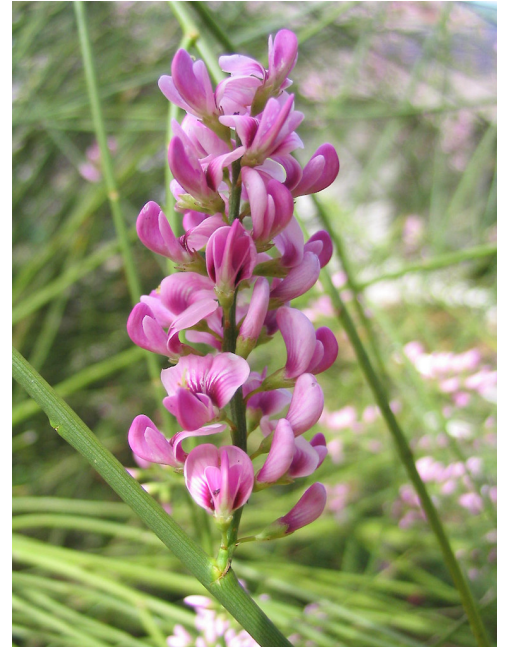
Carmichaelia carmichaeliae and *C. glabrescens* are superficially very similar species. They have a similar growth habit, branchlets, and flowers. *Carmichaelia carmichaeliae* differs from *C. glabrescens* by the pods being weakly constricted between the seeds, the seed outline often visible through the dry fruit wall, and the lower filaments are usually persistent on mature fruits. *C. glabrescens* pods are shorter and broader, there are no constrictions between seeds, the seed outline is not visible through the fruit wall, and the lower filaments are usually absent from mature fruits.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Marlborough) - south of the Awatere Fault

HABITAT

Lowland to montane. A species of alluvial terraces, gorges, cliff faces and steep valley sides.



Carmichaelia glabrescens. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Carmichaelia glabrescens. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

GENUS

Carmichaelia

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Carmichaelia glabrescens (Petrie) Heenan

SYNONYMS

Notospartium glabrescens Petrie

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November – January

FRUITING

January – December

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Semi hardwood cuttings can be struck with difficulty. An excellent species for a steep, free draining bank, cliff face or rock wall. Does well in any soil provided it is free draining. This species should be planted in full sun. It is intolerant of heavy shade and humidity.

CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

ETYMOLOGY

carmichaelia: After Carmichael, a botanist

glabrescens: Becoming hairless

NVS CODE

CARGLA

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (21 April 2011). Description adapted on Allan (1961) supplemented by data obtained from herbarium specimens.

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

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25 May 2026