

# Cassinia amoena

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small bushy shrub inhabiting coastal cliffs of the northern tip of the North Island. Twigs coated in white fuzz. Leaves small, narrow, dark green, scattered along twigs, wrinkled, with white fuzz underneath. Flowers white, in round clusters at tip of twigs. Small seed with a hair tuft at the tip.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub occasionally up to 1 m tall. Branchlets stout, greyish-tomentose. Leaves more or less 6-18 x 2-3 mm, finally spreading, narrow linear-obovate to narrow-spathulate on short erect petioles, coriaceous, glabrous above when mature, densely white-tomentose below, margins slightly revolute. Capitula numerous, in close corymbs, pedicels short. Phyllaries in 3-4 series, outer tomentose to pubescent on back, inner with white radiating tips; forming a narrow-turbinate involucre 4-5 mm long. Florets 4-6; scales of receptacle absent or up to 2, white-tipped. Achenes approximately 1 mm long, pubescent to silky-hairy; pappus-hairs up to 3.5 mm long, slightly thickened at tips.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Ozothamnus leptophylla* has smaller leaves (2-4 x 1-2.5 mm); and, is generally a larger specimen (2-3 m); widespread throughout the country, *C. amoena* is only found in the Surville cliffs area.

## DISTRIBUTION

North Island. Northland - Surville cliffs only.

## HABITAT

Seaside cliffs.

## GENUS

Cassinia

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Cassinia amoena* Cheeseman



Surville Cliffs, Te Pahi. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/10/2009, Licence: CC BY.



Surville Cliffs, Te Pahi. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/10/2009, Licence: CC BY.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

In regard to hybridism discussed in Allan (1961). The N.Z. members of the genus are still inadequately studied, especially with reference to the discrimination between true-breeding and hybrid forms. Carse describes his x *C. amoenatorta* (*C. amoena* × *retorta*) and remarks: "There appear to be three predominant forms: (a) Very near to *C. amoena* but with shorter leaves, 6-9 mm. long (10-17 mm. in *C. amoena*), tomentum of leaves and branchlets more yellow, heads rather broader; (b) similar, but smaller in leaves which are more yellow; (c) resembles *C. retorta* (now a synonym of *Ozothamnus leptophylla*) but with few florets in the heads. North Island: North Cape District on slope above Kerr Point, where *C. amoena*, *C. retorta* and intermediate forms are not uncommon. In the extreme north of Auckland Province, the tomentum on the branchlets and leaves of *C. retorta* is much more yellow than that on more southern plants which is usually whitish." *C. retorta* also appears to cross with *C. vauvilliersii* (now *O. vauvilliersii*), as does *C. leptophylla*.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

August-December

## FRUITING

September-January

## ETYMOLOGY

**cassinia**: Named after French botanist Alexandre de Cassini.

**amoena**: From the Latin *amoenus* 'delightful, beautiful, pleasing'

## NVS CODE

CASAMO

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 26-28

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, ST, OL

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cassinia-amoenae/>

## PDF DATE

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