

# Coprosma cuneata

## SYNONYMS

*Coprosma astonii* Petrie

## FAMILY

Rubiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Coprosma cuneata* Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

COPCUN

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Shrub with many clusters of small dark green narrow leaves that are dented at the tip on very short side branches. Leaves curved, 9–16mm long by 2mm wide, widest at tip, with a tuft of small hairs between the base of the pairs of leaves. Fruit red, persisting.

## DISTRIBUTION

South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Auckland Islands, and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

## HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine forest, scrub and shrubland, 0–1000 m.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender shrub up to 1 m tall, flattened or sprawling in exposed sites. **Branches** flexible, with dark to very dark brown bark; branchlets usually finely pubescent when young. **Leaves** usually in rather distant pairs or fascicles, petioles very slender, 1–2–(3) mm long. **Stipules** oblong-triangular, subacute to obtuse, pubescent, ciliate, with apical tuft of long hairs. **Lamina** subcoriaceous, glabrous, linear to very narrow-cuneate, more or less curved, truncate to obtuse, more or less retuse, sometimes mucronulate, (6)–10–16 × (0.5)–2–(3) mm. **Midrib** evident below, usually impressed above. **Flowers** unisexual. **Male flower** solitary or 2–4 together, terminal on short branchlets, calyx not present; corolla funnelform, tube more or less equal to narrow acute lobes. **Female flower** solitary, terminal; calyx-teeth very short; corolla narrow-funnelform, lobes narrow, acute, more or less equal to tube. **Drupe** clear red, globose, 3–5 mm diameter.



S. Borland, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Dart Valley, Otago. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 23/03/2012, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

### Key to Coprosma species of New Zealand

#### SIMILAR TAXA

*Coprosma cheesemanii* has pointed leaves and pale bark.

*Coprosma crenulata* has much more leathery, broader leaves, light grey bark, and short 3-toothed stipules.

*Coprosma microcarpa* lacks the indented leaf tips and has small white fruit.

*Coprosma linariifolia* has distinctive long-sheathing stipules, unique from any other small-leaved forms of that species, and also has pointed leaves, and fruit that is white. or white sprinkled with blue-black flecks.

*Coprosma acerosa* and its relatives all lack the indented leaf tips and have fruit coloured bright blue, rarely white, often flecked with darker blue.

#### FLOWERING

September–October

#### FLOWER COLOURS

Green

#### FRUITING

(December)–January–May

#### LIFE CYCLE

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

#### ETYMOLOGY

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

**cuneata:** From the Latin cuneum ‘wedge’, meaning wedge-shaped

#### TAXONOMIC NOTES

In the past, South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura plants were known as *Coprosma astonii*, but they are not specifically distinct from those further south.

#### ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961) and Wilson & Galloway (1993).

#### 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.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

Wilson HD, Galloway T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Manuka Press, Christchurch, NZ. 305 p.

#### MORE INFORMATION

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