

Coprosma decurva

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Tall bushy small-leaved shrub with wide-angled drooping branch tips and many small red fruit. Twigs fuzzy grey becoming orange towards base. Leaves 3-8mm long, base of leaf rounded, sometimes with very small tuft of hairs at tip. Leaves in clusters of pairs, those at tip of twigs usually much smaller.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

GENUS

Coprosma

FAMILY

Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY

Coprosma decurva Heads

SYNONYMS

Coprosma sp. (p) as in Eagle

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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'

decurva: Curved downwards

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

COPDEC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44



Mt Taranaki, April. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Cargill. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: TL Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

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-decurva/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026