

Coprosma dodonaeifolia

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Shrub with pairs of long thin wavy pointed leaves inhabiting upland areas in the vicinity of Coromandel and Great Barrier Island. Leaves 6-14cm long, with small pits at junction of veins, with a small spur between the base of the pairs of leaves. Fruit red, in clusters.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub, 2-3 m tall, with slender, erect, opposite branches arising at narrow angles from the stem. Branchlets slender, green, glabrous. Bark of branches reddish brown; branchlets sometimes whorled. Leaves on slender petioles approximately 10-20 mm long. Stipules triangular, denticle prominent. Lamina bright green above, not shining, paler below, thinly coriaceous, narrow-obovate to obovate, acute to obtuse, midrib mucronulately produced; gradually narrowed to petiole; (65-) 100-110 (-120) x (20-) 30-35 mm; margins waved to subundulate. Reticulated nerves more or less evident on both surfaces. Male flower clusters of up to 7-9, corolla conspicuous, lobes triangular, acute, stamens 4-5, prominent. Female flower in clusters of 3 on peduncles approximately 10-20 mm long; calyx-teeth rather long, acute; corolla not seen. Drupe orange-red, oblong, 6-9 mm. long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Coprosma tenuifolia has hairy leaf margins and midvein on upper surface; geographically more southern species, from Pirongia in the west and Raukumara Range in the east, the Taranaki Range in the South.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Great and Little Barrier Islands, Coromandel Peninsula south to at least Mt Te Aroha

HABITAT

Lowland forest to Alpine scrub, 150-1950 m.a.s.l.

GENUS

Coprosma

FAMILY

Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY

Coprosma dodonaeifolia W.R.B.Oliv.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



Table Mt, Thames, August. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



At Table Mt, Thames, August. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November-December

FRUITING

January-May (-June)

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'

dodonaefolia: Dodonaefolia: from 'dodonaea' genus named after Dodonaeus, the Latinised name of Rembert Dodoens (1517-1588), a Belgian botanist; and Latin 'folium' meaning leaf, having leaves like Dodonaea.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to Coprosma species of New Zealand

NVS CODE

COPDOD

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, RR, TL Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

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. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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