

# Coprosma microcarpa

## COMMON NAMES

small-seeded coprosma

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub with twigs arranged in a flat plane and bearing small narrow pairs of dark green leaves. Branches dark. Leaves in pairs, clustered, thin, 5-15mm long x 1-3mm wide. Small hair fringe on stem between leaf pairs (lens needed). Fruit small, white.

## GENUS

Coprosma

## FAMILY

Rubiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Coprosma microcarpa* Hook.f.

## 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'

**microcarpa**: Tiny fruit

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## NVS CODE

COPMIC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44



Kaitoke, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 04/04/2004, Licence: CC BY.



Whakapapa, Ruapehu. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## 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-microcarpa/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026