

# Coprosma niphophila

## COMMON NAME

creeping coprosma

## FAMILY

Rubiaceae

## AUTHORITY

Coprosma niphophila Orchard

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

COPNIP

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 132

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Dwarf low-growing sprawling shrub forming patches to 60cm in diameter with erect pairs of narrow small hairless leaves inhabiting open upland areas of the South Island. Leaves 4-5mm long, sometimes red tipped. Small black tipped tooth on stem between leaf bases. Fruit orange or red.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to Coprosma species of New Zealand

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green

## 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'

**niphophila:** Lover of snow

## 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



Pisa range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



At Pisa range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

**MORE INFORMATION**

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