# Coprosma parviflora

## COMMON NAMES
leafy 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 in Northland with flattened wide angled branches bearing abundant clusters of pairs of small oval leaves. Twigs fuzzy towards tip. Leaves with tiny hairs underneath (best detected using tongue), 7-12mm long. Fruit white, pink or dark violet.

Maunganui Bluff, September. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## FLOWER COLOURS
Green, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Shrub or small tree up to approximately 5 (-7) m tall. **Branches**, stout, bark pale grey to darker brown-grey; **branchlets** densely clad in appressed hairs when young. **Leaves** usually fascicled on slender pubescent petioles less than 1 mm long. **Stipules** triangular, hairy, ciliolate. **Lamina** coriaceous, glabrous, oblong to obovate, obtuse, cuneately narrowed to base, (4-5-) 7-12 (-18) × (2-) 4-6 mm, reticulations of veins usually evident below. **Flowers** terminal on short branchlets. Male flower solitary or 2-3 together; calyx not present; corolla funnelform, lobes approximately 3 mm long, more or less equal to tube, ovate, obtuse. Female flower solitary; calyx truncate, teeth minute; corolla-tube short, lobes approximately 2 mm long, linear, acute. **Drupe** dark purple or white and translucent, globose, shortly stalked, approximately 5 mm diameter. **Seeds** 2 obovate to elliptic to nearly circular, topside convex, underside slightly concave, surface finely grooved, dull pale orange-yellow to grey nut brown.

Maunganui Bluff, September. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA
*Coprosma ciliata* differs by having large generally orange drupes. The stipule of *C. ciliata* is tufted with long hairs and lacks a denticle. The juvenile leaves also have a distinctly hairy margin.
*Coprosma rubra* differs by having white or pale-yellow drupes and leaves which have a flattened petiole (leaf stalk).

## DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. Manawatāwhi | Three Kings Islands, and the Te Ika-a-Māui | North Island from Te Paki south to Auckland City (Remuera) but now extinct in the Auckland area. Still extant from the Kaipara Harbour north.

## HABITAT
Lowland to montane (0 – 600 m.a.s.l.), forest, shrubland, grassland, swampy and boggy places.

## GENUS
Coprosma

## FAMILY
Rubiaceae

## AUTHORITY
Coprosma parviflora Hook.f.

## SYNONYMS
Coprosma ciliata var. virgata Hook.f., Coprosma myrtillifolia Hook. f.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES
There is herbarium material evidence that this species has naturally hybridised with *Coprosma arborea* (Glenny *et. al.*, 2010).

## ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS
No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

## FLOWERING
August - September (- October)

## FRUITING
March - April (- October)

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Fleshy drupes are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## CULTIVATION
Occasionally sold by retail plant and specialist native plant nurseries.

## ETYMOLOGY
**coprosma**: From the Greek kopros ‘dung’ and osme ‘smell’, referring to the foul smell of the species, literally ‘dung smell’
**parviflora**: From the Latin parvus ‘small, puny’ and flores ‘flowers’, meaning small-flowered.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to Coprosma species of New Zealand

## NVS CODE
COPPAR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 132

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, PF, RF Help
Current regional threat status assessments prepared according to Crisp et al. (2025) are displayed when available. The Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.
Northland: 2026 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: DPS DPT Help
Current regional threat status assessments prepared according to Crisp et al. (2025) are displayed when available. The Northland conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation status of indigenous vascular plants in Northland | Taitokerau" Ford et al. 2026 report.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. Pg.571.
Glenny D, Cruickshank J, Morse C. and Rolfe J. 2010. Key to Coprosma species of New Zealand. Accessed at https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/tools-and-resources/identification/key-to-coprosma-species-of-new-zealand Date of access: 18/5/26.
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.
Wilson HD & Galloway T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Manuka Press. Pg 95.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by MD Ward (May 18th 2026). Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Wilson & Galloway (1993).


## MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/coprosma-parviflora/

## PDF DATE

01 September 2026