

# Coprosma perpusilla subsp. perpusilla

## SYNONYMS

*Coprosma pumila* Hook.f. auct.non.

## FAMILY

Rubiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Coprosma perpusilla* Colenso subsp. *perpusilla*

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

COPPSP

## 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. Leaves 3-6mm long, fleshy, often with a small brown fleck at base. Small group of hairs on stem between leaf bases. Fruit red and containing four seeds.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## 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'

**perpusilla:** Tiny, very small



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



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#### WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally offered by specialist native plant nurseries

#### TAXONOMIC NOTES

New Zealand plants now known as *Coprosma niphophila* Orchard, *C. perpusilla* subsp. *subantarctica* Orchard and *C. perpusilla* Orchard subsp. *perpusilla* were previously all referred to *C. pumila* Hook.f. which is endemic to Tasmania.

#### 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-perpusilla-subsp-perpusilla/>