

# Coprosma perpusilla subsp. perpusilla

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED 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.

## GENUS

Coprosma

## FAMILY

Rubiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Coprosma perpusilla* Colenso subsp. *perpusilla*

## SYNONYMS

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

## 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.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Fleshy drupes are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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



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



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## 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

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## NVS CODE

COPPSP

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 132

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

## 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/>

## PDF DATE

08 June 2026