

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

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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.

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

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.



Mt Taranaki, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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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/>