

Coprosma rugosa

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Orangeish very bushy large shrub with many interlacing wide-angled twigs bearing clusters of pairs of very narrow leaves. Twigs fuzzy becoming orange towards base. Leaves 10-14 mm long by up to 1.5mm wide, sometimes bearing tiny clusters of hairs on upper side (lens needed). Fruit pale blue.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

GENUS

Coprosma

FAMILY

Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY

Coprosma rugosa Cheeseman

SYNONYMS

Plagianthus linarifolia Buchanan, *Coprosma antipoda* W.R.B.Oliv.

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

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

coprosma: From the Greek kopros 'dung' and osme 'smell', referring to the foul smell of the species, literally 'dung smell'

rugosa: Wrinkled

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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



Arthurs Pass, May. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Arthurs Pass, May. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

NVS CODE

COPRUG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: TL 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-rugosa/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026