

# Coriaria sarmentosa

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Common robust much branched large shrub inhabiting open or disturbed areas. Can cover large areas. Dying back in winter. Twigs square in cross-section, bearing pairs of 40-50mm long glossy green oval pointed leaves that do not have a leaf stalk. Flowers in spikes up to 8cm long. Fruit black.

## GENUS

Coriaria

## FAMILY

Coriariaceae

## AUTHORITY

Coriaria sarmentosa G.Forst.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

## POISONOUS PLANT

All parts of all Coriaria species are poisonous especially the seed inside the black berries. For more information see the entry under *Coriaria arborea* var *arborea* (tutu). Click on this link for more information about [Poisonous native plants](#).

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for March 2021](#) for the full story.

## ETYMOLOGY

**coriaria**: From the Latin corium 'hide', possibly from the use of some species for tanning leather

**sarmentosa**: Twiggy

## NVS CODE

CORSAR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 80



Coriaria sarmentosa. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Coriaria sarmentosa. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## 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 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/coriaria-sarmentosa/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026