

# Corokia buddleioides

## COMMON NAME

korokio

## FAMILY

Argophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Corokia buddleioides* A.Cunn.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

CORBUD

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Shrub with narrow pointed glossy leaves that are white underneath inhabiting the northern North Island. Leaves somewhat leathery, 5-15cm long by 1-3cm wide, with white fuzz underneath. Flower yellow, arranged in a short spike. Fruit red or dark red.

## DISTRIBUTION

North Island. Northland south to outliers in New Plymouth and the volcanic plateau, not seen east of Bay of Plenty.

## HABITAT

Coastal to lowland forest and forest margins.

## FEATURES

Much-branched shrub up to 3 m or more tall. Branchlets slender, not divaricate; bark dark, rough. Leaves alternate, coriaceous, 50-150 x 10-30 mm, on stout petioles up to 10 mm long; lamina narrow- to rather broad-lanceolate, acuminate to acute. Panicles terminal and axillary, up to 50 mm long; flowers approximately 7-10 mm diameter. Calyx-segments ovate-oblong, obtuse, approximately 2-3 mm long; petals bright to pale yellow, approximately 5 mm long, ovate-lanceolate-oblong, subacute. Drupes bright to dark red to black, approximately 6-7 mm. long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Corokia buddleioides* var. *linearis* the difference is the size of the linear-lanceolate leaf (45-80 mm x 4-6 mm), which is more narrow and shorter than this species.



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Mt Donald McLean. Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft

## FLOWERING

October-December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## FRUITING

November-April

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## ETYMOLOGY

**corokia:** From the Maori name korokio or korokia-tarango

**buddleioides:** Like a buddleia

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

Where *Corokia buddleioides* and *C. cotoneaster* grow in company, complex hybrid swarms are often seen. Fruit may be produced, but the viability of the seeds has not been tested, though it seems certain that many wild plants of a hybrid population belong to the second filial generation. Carse (1912), when describing the mid-forms as *C. Cheesemanii* says: "This description applies to the type specimens, but the plant appears to pass by regular gradations into *C. cotoneaster* on the one hand, and into *C. buddleioides* on the other, with a tendency in one form to a broadening of the leaves bringing the species very close to the Chatham Island *C. macrocarpa*."

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pg. 441-442, 1023.

Carse, H. 1912. *Corokia cheesemanii*. Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Vol 45. Page 376.

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/corokia-buddleioides/>