Corokia buddleioides

COMMON NAMES
korokio

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED 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.

FLOWER COLOURS
Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Much-branched shrub up to 3 m or more tall. **Branchlets** slender, not divaricate; bark dark, rough. **Leaves** alternate, coriaceous, 50–150 × 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.

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.

GENUS
Corokia

FAMILY
Argophyllaceae

AUTHORITY
Corokia buddleioides A.Cunn.

SYNONYMS
Corokia buddleioides var. linearis Cheeseman

In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 27/09/2004, Licence: CC BY.

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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*."
Analysis of leaf characters has shown that the distinguishing characters of *Corokia buddleioides* var. *linearis* (leaf length and width) falls within the natural variation of *C. buddleioides* (Heenan 2023). Therefore Heenan (2023) concluded that *C. buddleioides* var. *linearis* does not warrant taxonomic recognition and should be treated as a synonym of *C. buddleioides*.
Corokia buddleioides var. *buddleioides* is an autonym. Autonyms are created with the recognition of comparable infraspecific rank names, in this case *Corokia buddelioides* var. *linearis*. In eliminating the variety *C. buddelioides* var. *linearis*, the autonym *C. buddleioides* var. *buddleioides* is redundant.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

November–April

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

ETYMOLOGY

corokia: From the Maori name korokio or korokia-tarango
buddleioides: Like a buddleia

NVS CODE

CORBUD

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, PF Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pp. 441–442 of 1023 p.
Carse H. 1912. *Corokia cheesemanii. Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand 45:* 376.
Heenan PB. 2023. Taxonomic notes on the New Zealand flora: the status of four varietal names in *Brachyglottis* (Asteraceae), *Corokia* (Argophyllaceae), *Mida* (Nanodeaceae) and *Teucridium* (Labiatae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, (published online November 2023) DOI: 10.1080/0028825X.2023.2276282.
Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11*: 285–309.

ATTRIBUTION

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

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corokia-buddleioides/

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25 May 2026