

# Corokia cotoneaster

## COMMON NAME

korokio, wire-netting bush

## FAMILY

Argophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

Corokia cotoneaster Raoul

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

CORCOT

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Common variable shrub with zig-zag thin grey twigs bearing clusters of small leaves that are white underneath with a dented or rounded tip and on a dark flattened leaf stalk. Flowers yellow, star-shaped. Fruit red.

## DISTRIBUTION

North, South and Three Kings Islands.

## HABITAT

Lowland shrubland, river-flats and rocky places throughout.

## FEATURES

Much-branched shrub up to 3 m or more tall. Branchlets rigid, divaricate; bark dark, rough. Leaves of seedlings obovate-spathulate, often elongate and 3-lobed. Leaves of adults varying in size according to exposure, alternate or in alternate fascicles, obovate-cuneate to obovate-oblong to suborbicular, obtuse, emarginate or not; lamina dark or coppery green above, silvery white beneath, 2-15 x 2-10 mm, on flattened petiole up to 20 mm long. Flowers axillary and terminal, solitary or in fascicles of 2-4; 5-8 mm diameter, numerous per plant. Calyx-segments 1-1.5 mm long, ovate-triangular, pubescent on backs; petals bright yellow, usually 5, approximately 4-5 mm long, narrow oblong-ovate, acute to subacute, pubescent on backs. Drupes red or orange or yellow, 5-8 mm long.



Cotoneaster. Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Close up of leaves and fruit. Photographer: Wayne Bennett

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Helichrysum lanceolatum* can closely resemble *Corokia* in the absence of flowers or fruit. *Helichrysum* lacks the distinctive zigzagging of stiff, dark branchlets, and has paler green, duller, thinner leaves with pointed rather than blunt or indented tips.

*Olearia odorata* has opposite leaves or leaf clusters and fluffy seeds.

*Olearia capillaris* has wavy or crinkle-cut edges to the leaves, fawn, peeling bark, and fluffy seeds.

*Olearia polita* has opposite leaves or leaf clusters, two ridges (lens helpful) along the young branchlets, and fluffy seeds.

## FLOWERING

(September-) October-December (-April)

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## FRUITING

February-May (-September)

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**cotoneaster**: from Latin cotneum, meaning 'quince', and the suffix -aster meaning 'imperfectly resembling'.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

*Corokia* is a small genus of three species occurring naturally only in New Zealand. *C. cotoneaster* hybridises with the larger leaved *C. buddleioides* where the two species grow together, and some of the hybrid forms are popular as garden plants.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961) and Wilson & Galloway (1993).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Moorfield, J. C. (2005). Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.

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.

Wilson, H. D., & Galloway, T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Manuka Press. pg. 182-184.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corokia-cotoneaster/>