

# Corokia macrocarpa

## COMMON NAME

hokataka, whakataka

## FAMILY

Argophyllaceae

## AUTHORITY

Corokia macrocarpa Kirk

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

CORMCC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE

2004 | Range Restricted

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tall shrub with pointed greyish leaves that are white underneath inhabiting the Chatham Islands. Leaves somewhat leathery, margin curved, 4-8cm long by 1.5-3.5cm wide, with white fuzz underneath. Flower yellow, star-shaped, with orange centre. Fruit orange.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Chatham Islands and is found on Chatham, South East, Pitt and Mangere islands.

## HABITAT

Widespread from the coast to the highest points on the main islands, growing in a range of habitats including sand dunes, coastal headlands, rock outcrops (basalt, schist, limestone), lake margins and dense forest. Only absent from restiad bog, though it often grows on the fringes of these.



Corokia macrocarpa. Photographer: Peter de Lange



Chatham Islands 2002. Photographer: John Sawyer

## FEATURES

Much branched shrub or tree up to 8 m tall. Bark firmly attached, charcoal grey, rough. Branches and branchlets ascending, virgate, young branchlets puberulent, hairs whitish, patent. Leaves alternate, coriaceous, borne on firmly flexible, greyish petioles, up 10-15 mm long; lamina (30-)40-80 × 15-35 mm, obovate-cuneate to broad-oblong to elliptic-oblong, apiculate, adaxially dark green surface initially invested in sparse to moderate covering of whitish short white hairs, these shedding with age, abaxially, white to dense covering of short white hairs. Inflorescences (1-)4-5(-8)-flowered axillary racemes, raceme peduncle and pedicels densely invested in white, appressed hairs; peduncle 20-40 mm long, pedicels 5-6 mm long; flowers, stellate, yellow; calyces 5-segmented, sepals 3-5 mm long, ovate, ovate attenuate, surfaces densely covered in white appressed hairs; petals 5-6 mm long, lanceolate, lanceolate-oblong, acute, adaxially yellow, abaxially covered in appressed white hairs, widely spreading; stamens 5, antisepalous, filaments 2.0-2.5 mm long, yellow, anthers basifixed, 0.5-0.6 mm, oblong, creamy yellow; disc (0.6-)1.6-2.0 mm diameter, convex, dark yellow or orange, weakly partitioned into 5; style 5-6 yellow, stigma capitate, yellow, channelled to one site, surface rugose. Fruits 10-12 mm, globose, yellow, orange, occasionally dark orange-red, fleshy, flesh dryish.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Corokia macrocarpa* is a distinctive species that is unlikely to be confused with any other indigenous Chathamian plant. However, when vegetative it could be confused with sterile shrubs of hakapiri (*Olearia traversiorum*). In this condition *Corokia macrocarpa* is easily distinguished from hakapiri by the leaves which are arranged alternately up the branchlets rather than oppositely.

## FLOWERING

November - April

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## FRUITING

Throughout year

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**macrocarpa**: Large fruit

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (25 April 2022). Description by P.J. de Lange (25 April 2022)

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

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