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.
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 to 15 mm long; lamina (30-)40-80 × 15-35 mm, obovate-cuneate to broadly oblanceolate 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 Chathams 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 alternatively 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