

Cotoneaster perpusillus

COMMON NAMES

rockspray cotoneaster

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Decumbent to appressed shrub, dense branching in herring-bone pattern; leaves slightly folded, apiculate.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

SIMILAR TAXA

Compared with *C. horizontalis* (subsp. *horizontalis*), *C. perpusillus* has more of a herringbone look from its dense regular pinnate branching; leaves slightly folded (*C. horizontalis* leaves tend to be flatter); leaves apiculate cf. *C. horizontalis* in which the leaf tips are rounded.

DISTRIBUTION

Casual, with a few scattered records from probably abandoned garden sites.

HABITAT

Needs very good drainage; drought resistant once established.

GENUS

Cotoneaster

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Cotoneaster perpusillus (C.K. Schneid.) Flinck & Hylmö

SYNONYMS

Cotoneaster horizontalis var. *perpusillus* C.K. Schneid.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Can be prolific; scarlet

YEAR NATURALISED

1984, CHR 481276

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



Raetihi on clay road bank; sprawling shrub; leaf undersides. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 06/05/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

cotoneaster: From cotoneus an old Latin name for the quince, and possibly aster, corruption of adinstar 'resembling', i.e. quince-like

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to Cotoneaster species present in New Zealand

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026