

# Discaria toumatou

## COMMON NAME

Matagouri

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Rhamnaceae

## AUTHORITY

Discaria toumatou Raoul

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

## NVS CODE

DISTOU

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Declining

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Spiky grey shrub with many zig-zagging long flexible twigs bearing long (up to 5cm long) green spines interspersed with small oval dark green leaves. Bark rough, broken into squares. Leaves 10-20mm long. Flowers small, white, inconspicuous. Fruit a dry, 3 sided capsule.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island known from near Waiuku south to the southern Wairarapa and Wellington coastline. Very uncommon in the North Island. In the South Island mainly east of the main divide, appearing to avoid areas of high rainfall

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are dispersed by ballistic projection and water (Thorsen et al., 2009).



Quail Island. Photographer: John Barkla



Danseys pass, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from seed. Can be grown from cuttings but these can be slow to strike. Rather variable, and some North Island sand dune forms are entirely prostrate, forming trailing shrubs. An excellent hedge plant, with the added bonus that this species fixes atmospheric nitrogen, making it available for other plants.

## THREATS

Not Threatened for most of its range. However, very uncommon and under threat throughout the North Island, where it is now known from very few sites and viable populations.

## ETYMOLOGY

**discaria:** Disc bearing

**toumatou:** Derived from the Maori name tumamatakuru.

## WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Chrystall, L. 1976. Further record of matagouri in the North Island. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 39: 47

Duguid, F. 1976. Matagouri at Herbertville. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 39: 45

Elder, N.L. 1966. Matagouri in the North Island. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 33: 5

Elder, N.L. 1967. Matagouri in the North Island - Part 2. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 34: 19-20

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/discaria-toumatou/>