**Dracophyllum filifolium**

**SYNONYMS**
Dracophyllum setifolium Stchegl.; Dracophyllum pungens Colenso; Dracophyllum virgatum Colenso; Dracophyllum heterophyllum Colenso; Dracophyllum ×vulcanicum; Dracophyllum urvillianum var. filifolium Cheeseman; Dracophyllum collinum W.R.B. Oliv.; Dracophyllum filifolium var. centrale W.R.B. Oliv.; Dracophyllum filifolium var. collinum W.R.B. Oliv.

**FAMILY**
Ericaceae

**AUTHORITY**
Dracophyllum filifolium Hook.f.

**FLORA CATEGORY**
Vascular – Native

**ENDEMIC TAXON**
Yes

**ENDEMIC GENUS**
No

**ENDEMIC FAMILY**
No

**STRUCTURAL CLASS**
Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

**NVS CODE**
DRAFIL

**CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS**
2012 | Not Threatened

**PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES**
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**
Shrub or small tree (up to 4 m tall) of lowland to montane forest, shrubland and grassland. Leaves grass-like, erect. Flowers white, borne in spikes, with the inflorescence bracts and flower bracts distinctly longer than the flowers.

**DISTRIBUTION**
Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands from Huiaura Range south.

**HABITAT**
Dracophyllum filifolium is found in lowland to montane forest, shrubland and grassland from sea level (southern part of range only) along mountain slopes on saddles and mountain ridges up 1500 m altitude.
FEATURES
Erect multi-stemmed shrub or tree, 1–4 m tall. Bark on old branches grey to brown, finely fissured, young stems reddish brown. Leaves erect to spreading; lamina sheath 6.0–16.0 × 3.0–5.5 mm, membranous, shoulders tapering to auricled, margins ciliate in the upper half; lamina linear to linear–triangular, 40.0–200.0 × 0.7–1.5 mm, surfaces glabrous with a tuft of scabrid hairs at base of adaxial surface, slightly striated; margins serrulate with 18–25 teeth per 10 mm; apex acute to weakly triquetrous. Inflorescence a terminal spike on lateral branchlets, shorter than leaves, erect to drooping, dense, 20–30 mm long, linear–oblong; inflorescence bract over-topping flowers, ovate–lanceolate, 8.5–17 × 2–4 mm, surfaces glabrous; margins ciliate. Flowers 5–10, sessile; flower bracts over-topping flowers, broadly–ovate; 5.6–13.0 × 3.0–4.0 mm, surfaces glabrous with a tuft of scabrid hair at base of adaxial surface, margins ciliate. Sepals 4.0–6.0 × 1.5–1.7 mm, ovate–lanceolate, occasionally ovate, equaling corolla tube, surfaces glabrous; margins ciliate. Corolla white; corolla tube 3.5–6.0 × 1.8–2.5 mm, cylindrical; corolla lobes reflexed, 1.5–2.0 × 1.5–1.6 mm, ovate, shorter than corolla tube, apices subacute to acute; surfaces glabrous. Stamens inserted on corolla tube in upper third, filaments 0.2–0.3 mm long; anthers included, oblong, light yellow and 1 mm long. Ovary subglobose, 1.5–2.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, glabrous, apex round; nectary scales 0.7–1.0 × 0.5–0.7 mm, oblong; apices obtuse to retuse; style included, 1–2 mm long, glabrous; stigma five-lobed. Fruit sessile, 2.0–2.5 × 2.0–2.2 mm, light brown, obovoid, apex round, glabrous. Seeds 0.8–1.2 mm long, yellowish brown, filiform, testa slightly reticulate.

SIMILAR TAXA
Dracophyllum filifolium is recognised by the spicate inflorescences which are 17–24 mm long; by the inflorescence bracts and flower bracts distinctly longer than the flower; by the sepals equal to the corolla tube which is 3.0–4.5 mm long; by the corolla lobes 1.5–2.0 mm wide, and by the nectary scales which are 1.0–1.3 mm long and have obtuse apices. Dracophyllum filifolium is similar to D. urvilleanum and D. lessonianum species with which it never grows and from which it differs in leaf, inflorescence and flower characters given above.

FLOWERING
November – June

FLOWER COLOURS
White

FRUITING
Throughout the year

LIFE CYCLE
Minute seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

ETYMOLOGY
dracophyllum: Dragon leaf, from its likeness to the dragon tree of the Canary Islands

ATTRIBUTION
Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (4 June 2012). Description adapted from Venter (2009)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

CITATION
Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Dracophyllum filifolium Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dracophyllum-filifolium/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION