

Dracophyllum filifolium

COMMON NAME

inanga

SYNONYMS

Dracophyllum setifolium Stcheegl.; *Dracophyllum pungens* Colenso; *Dracophyllum virgatum* Colenso; *Dracophyllum heterophyllum* Colenso; *Dracophyllum xvulcanicum*; *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

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

DRAFIL

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

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 Island, South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura from Huiarau 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 a.s.l.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Mangahuaia, Ruapehu, April. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mangahuaia, Ruapehu, April. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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

Venter S. 2009. A taxonomic revision of the genus *Dracophyllum* Labill. (Ericaceae). Unpublished Phd Thesis, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington.

NZPCN FACT SHEET 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

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dracophyllum-filifolium/>