Gnidia squarrosa

COMMON NAMES
Gnidia, saffron bush

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS
Cream, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
A shrub, up to 1m high, of variable habit; branches sometimes long and simple, at others short and corymbosely or racemosely arranged, pilose when young, leaf-scars small, but rather prominent; leaves alternate, closely placed, 4-6 x 0.5-0.8 mm. linear-lanceolate, subacute, 1-nerved, flat or slightly keeled, quite glabrous; flowers in clusters of 6-many at the ends of the branches; calyx pilose; tube 3-6 mm long, narrowly ovoid and strongly ribbed in the lower half, narrowly funneliform above; lobes ovate, obtuse, 1.9-2.8 x 0.6-1.2 mm; petals 8, half as long as the lobes, anther-like, shortly stalked, emarginate; anthers 0.9-1.0 mm long; ovary oblong, compressed, hairy at the apex; style of variable length; stigma capitate.
null



Whanganui. Oct 2012. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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DISTRIBUTION
Exotic. Known as a garden escape from Whanganui. Occasionally sold and grown as a ornamental. Native to South Africa

HABITAT
Garden escape. Self seeding freely near parent plants in gardens in Whanganui

GENUS
Gnidia

FAMILY
Thymelaeaceae

AUTHORITY
Gnidia squarrosa (L.) Druce

SYNONYMS
Gnidia polystachya P.J.Bergius, Gnidia polystachya P.J.Bergius var. congesta C.H.Wright

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Occasionally cultivated as an ornamental in New Zealand. Plants mostly grown from cuttings.

ETYMOLOGY

gnidia: Named after the genus Gnidia which is also in the Thymelaeaceae family. Gnidia is named after Gnidus, a town in Crete.
squarrosa: Rough, with scale-like projections; from the Latin squarrosus; leaves and leaf stalks

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (3 October 2012).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gnidia-squarrosa/

PDF DATE

30 September 2026