

Gonocarpus incanus

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMILAR TAXA

The NZ species in the genus *Gonocarpus* can be distinguished by (adapted from A.E. Orchard, 1975, Taxonomic revisions in the Family Haloragaceae, Bulletin of the Auckland Institute and Museum 10); *G. montanus*: primary floral bracts opposite (at least in lower part of flower), fruit 8-ribbed (with 2-3 calluses between ribs), leaves opposite, appressed hairs on young parts, sparsely so on base of midvein on underside of leaf; *G. aggregatus* similar but fruits 4-8 ribbed (and without calluses), leaves hairy on both surfaces; *G. incanus*: primary floral bracts alternate throughout, fruit +/- ovoid, 8-ribbed with 2-3 calluses between ribs, stems with appressed hairs; *G. micranthus* similar but primary bracts are deciduous, stems are glabrous, and fruit is nodding and without the calluses between ribs. Plants intermediate between *G. montanus* and *G. incanus* are known.

GENUS

Gonocarpus

FAMILY

Haloragaceae

AUTHORITY

Gonocarpus incanus (A.Cunn.) Orchard

SYNONYMS

Haloragis incana (A.Cunn.) Walp.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Fruit are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009)

ETYMOLOGY

gonocarpus: Angled fruit

incanus: Hoary, a greyish whiteness caused by hairs overlying a green surface

NVS CODE

GONINC



Gonocarpus incanus. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Fruit. Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/06/2013, Licence: CC BY.

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 48$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland”](#) Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Data Deficient Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025”](#) Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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/gonocarpus-incanus/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026