

Griselinia littoralis

COMMON NAMES

broadleaf, kāpuka, papauma

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy tree with a rough dark trunk bearing thick glossy green rounded leaves that are paler underneath on a yellowish stem. Leaves 5-10cm long by 2-5cm, base slightly uneven. Flowers small, yellowish or cream. Fruit dark purple, 6-7mm long, with a small ring at tip, arranged in a spike.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

GENUS

Griselinia

FAMILY

Griselinaceae

AUTHORITY

Griselinia littoralis (Raoul) Raoul

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Fleshy berries are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

ETYMOLOGY

griselinia: After Grisellini

littoralis: From the Latin littus 'shore', meaning shore-loving or growing on the shore

NVS CODE

GRILIT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36



Coromandel, October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Coromandel, October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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 Threatened – Regionally Endangered | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, RR 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 Not Threatened 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/griselinia-littoralis/>

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25 May 2026