Korthalsella lindsayi

COMMON NAMES
leafless mistletoe, dwarf mistletoe

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
Dense mass of flattened beaded succulent stems to 10cm long growing on twigs of another plant. Leaves (flattened stems) 5-12mm long by 3-9mm wide, widest towards upper middle. Flowers tiny, fruit small, green, on short spike.



Wairoa. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.



Woodside gorge, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. North Island and South Island. In the North Island generally uncommon from Pureora south to about the Hawke's Bay and Wairarapa, there after abundant. In the South Island throughout, though apparently more common in the east.

HABITAT
Coastal to subalpine but more usually found in lowland and coastal situations. Usually associated with lowland alluvial and coastal forest. Parasitising a diverse range of shrubs, trees and vines with not clear host preference evident, though regional patterns may exist (this needs further study).

GENUS
Korthalsella

FAMILY
Viscaceae

AUTHORITY
Korthalsella lindsayi (Oliv.) Engl.

SYNONYMS
Viscum lindsayi D.Oliver, Heterixia lindsayi Tiegh nom. illeg., Korthalsella lindsayi (Oliv.) Endl. var. lindsayi

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
October - March

FRUITING
October - June

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Fleshy berries are dispersed by ballistic projection, attachment and possibly frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

WHERE TO BUY
Not commercially available.

ETYMOLOGY
korthalsella: After Korthals, botanist

NVS CODE
KORLIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 28

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: TL 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
Nickrent, D.L.; Malécot, V.; Vidal-Russell, R.; Der, J.P. 2010: A revised classification of Santalales. Taxon 59: 538-558.
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/korthalsella-lindsayi/

PDF DATE
25 May 2026