

Plagianthus divaricatus

COMMON NAMES

salt marsh ribbonwood, marsh ribbonwood

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 tangled shrub with wide-angled thin twigs bearing small very narrow clusters of leaves and small drooping flowers inhabiting estuary areas. Twigs with star-shaped hairs (lens needed). Leaves 5-20mm long by 0.5-2mm wide. Fruit a 5mm wide dry capsule.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

GENUS

Plagianthus

FAMILY

Malvaceae

AUTHORITY

Plagianthus divaricatus J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

plagianthus: Oblique or lop-sided flower (petals uneven at the base)

divaricatus: Spreading and interlacing

NVS CODE

PLADIV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42



Pauatahanui. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/04/2006, Licence: CC BY.



Kennedy bay, September. 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 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 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.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/plagianthus-divaricatus/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026