

Sophora prostrata

COMMON NAME

kōwhai, prostrate kōwhai

SYNONYMS

Sophora tetraptera var. *prostrata* (Buchanan) Kirk; *Edwardsia prostrata* (Buchanan) W.R.B.Oliv.; *Sophora microphylla* subsp. *microphylla* var. *prostrata* (Buchanan) Yakovlev

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Sophora prostrata Buchanan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

SOPPRO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A small dense kowhai tree to 2m tall with zig-zagging branches bearing leaves to 25mm long that have leaflets 4mm long and with drooping orange-yellow flowers and dry ridged and knobbly pointed seed pods to 5cm long containing hard brown seeds. Juveniles and adults similar. Inhabiting the eastern South Island.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Confined to the eastern South Island from Marlborough to the Waitaki Valley

FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Yellow

ETYMOLOGY

sophora: After the Arabic name for a similar tree

prostrata: Prostrate

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Anonymous. 1944. Kowhai. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 9: 4-5



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 16/10/2004, Licence: CC BY.



L. Pukaki, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sophora-prostrata/>