

# Teucrium parvifolium

## COMMON NAME

teucidium

## SYNONYMS

*Teucrium parvifolium* var. *luxurians* Cheeseman,, *Teucrium parvifolium* Hook.f.

## FAMILY

Lamiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Teucrium parvifolium* (Hook.f.) Kattari et Salmaki

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

TEUPAR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 64

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: Sp

2004 | Gradual Decline

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rare shrub to 2m tall with yellowish wide-angled square branches bearing pairs of small rounded soft leaves and small white flowers inhabiting drier areas. Leaves 4-12mm long. Flowers with a few projecting curved filaments. Fruit dry.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to New Zealand, occurring sporadically from Northland to Southland, but commoner in the east of both islands.

## HABITAT

Along fertile stream sides and river terraces in lowland dry forest and podocarp-hardwood forest; occasionally on forest margins, clearings and amongst scrub.

## FEATURES

A small-leaved shrub to 2 m. Young stems are orange or brown, square in cross-section and finely hairy. Leaves are in opposite pairs, round, dull green or brown-green; up to 12 mm long on stalks of equal length. Flowers are small (8 mm diameter), white (rarely bluish) with 5 irregular petal lobes. Fruit is a group of 4 seeds held within a persistent calyx.



Teucrium. Photographer: DoC South Marlborough



Photographer: Shannel Courtney

## SIMILAR TAXA

Small, round-leaved Coprosma species are similar, but easily distinguished by their round or oval stems, leaf domatia (or pits in the leaf near the midrib) and a small, pointed 'stipule' running across the stem between each leaf pair. *Neomyrtus pedunculata* has square stems, but they are hairless while the leaves are shiny and gland-dotted.

## FLOWERING

Flowering occurs from October to January.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

Fruiting from December to March.

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. A very hardy shrub which is tolerant of a wide range of habitats, soils types and moisture regimes.

## THREATS

Forest clearance, rural development, stock and feral animal browse, invasive weeds.

## ETYMOLOGY

**parvifolium:** Small-leafed

## WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from commercial nurseries. An attractive shrub which should be more widely grown.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

Long regarded as an endemic, monotypic genus *Teucridium*, recent phylogenetic studies have clearly established that the genus is better merged within an expanded concept of *Teucrium* (Salmaki et al. 2016).

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange (August 2004). Description adapted from Allan (1961)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

Salmaki, Y.; Kattari, S.; Heubl, G.; Bräuchler, C. 2016: Phylogeny of non-monophyletic *Teucrium* (Lamiaceae: Ajugoideae): Implications for character evolution and taxonomy. *Taxon* 65: 805–822

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/teucrium-parvifolium/>