

# Watsonia meriana var. bulbillifera

## COMMON NAMES

bulbil watsonia

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Gladiolus-like, clump-forming, summer-green perennial to 2 m tall. Stout corms, 5-7 cm diam, with thick fibrous coat, multiply at ground level. Stem stiffly erect, 2 cm diam. Leaves sword-shaped, 2-5 x 30-60 cm, arising from base, folded, tough, fibrous, light green. Flowers curved, brick-red to salmon pink and 6-8cm long - numerous in a terminal spike. Petals 6, fused. Produces numerous brown cormils in clusters of up to 16 at nodes on the upper stem.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Formerly known as *Watsonia bulbillifera*

## GENUS

*Watsonia*

## FAMILY

Iridaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera* (J.W.Mathews & L.Bolus) D.A.Cooke

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seed is not produced. Corms and cormils are spread by machinery, and in dumped garden waste.

## ETYMOLOGY

**watsonia**: Named after Sir William Watson, an English botanist (1715 – 1787)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/watsonia-meriana-var-bulbillifera/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026



*Watsonia bulbillifera*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Flowering *Watsonia bulbillifera*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.