

# Corokia macrocarpa

## COMMON NAMES

hokotaka, whakataka

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Tall shrub with pointed greyish leaves that are white underneath inhabiting the Chatham Islands. Leaves somewhat leathery, margin curved, 4-8cm long by 1.5-3.5cm wide, with white fuzz underneath. Flower yellow, star-shaped, with orange centre. Fruit orange.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Much branched shrub or tree up to 8 m tall. **Bark** firmly attached, charcoal grey, rough. **Branches** and branchlets ascending, virgate, young branchlets puberulent, hairs whitish, patent. **Leaves** alternate, coriaceous, borne on firmly flexible, greyish petioles, up 10-15 mm long; lamina (30-)40-80 × 15-35 mm, obovate-cuneate to broad-oblong to elliptic-oblong, apiculate, adaxially dark green surface initially invested in sparse to moderate covering of whitish short white hairs, these shedding with age, abaxially, white to dense covering of short white hairs. **Inflorescences** (1-)4-5(-8)-flowered axillary racemes, raceme peduncle and pedicels densely invested in white, appressed hairs; peduncle 20-40 mm long, pedicels 5-6 mm long; **flowers**, stellate, yellow; calyces 5-segmented, sepals 3-5 mm long, ovate, ovate attenuate, surfaces densely covered in white appressed hairs; petals 5-6 mm long, lanceolate, lanceolate-oblong, acute, adaxially yellow, abaxially covered in appressed white hairs, widely spreading; stamens 5, antisepalous, filaments 2.0-2.5 mm long, yellow, anthers basifixed, 0.5-0.6 mm, oblong, creamy yellow; disc (0.6-)1.6-2.0 mm diameter, convex, dark yellow or orange, weakly partitioned into 5; style 5-6 yellow, stigma capitate, yellow, channelled to one site, surface rugose. **Fruits** 10-12 mm, globose, yellow, orange, occasionally dark orange-red, fleshy, flesh dryish.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Corokia macrocarpa* is a distinctive species that is unlikely to be confused with any other indigenous Chathams plant. However, when vegetative it could be confused with sterile shrubs of hakaipiri (*Olearia traversiorum*). In this condition *Corokia macrocarpa* is easily distinguished from hakaipiri by the leaves which are arranged alternatively up the branchlets rather than oppositely.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Chatham Islands and is found on Chatham, South East, Pitt and Mangere islands.



Corokia macrocarpa. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Chatham Islands 2002. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## HABITAT

Widespread from the coast to the highest points on the main islands, growing in a range of habitats including sand dunes, coastal headlands, rock outcrops (basalt, schist, limestone), lake margins and dense forest. Only absent from restiad bog, though it often grows on the fringes of these.

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## DETAILED TAXONOMY

### FAMILY

Argophyllaceae

### AUTHORITY

Corokia macrocarpa Kirk

### ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

### ENDEMIC GENUS

No

### ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ECOLOGY

### FLOWERING

November - April

### FRUITING

Throughout year

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

## OTHER INFORMATION

### PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for March 2015](#) for the full story.

## ETYMOLOGY

**corokia**: From the Maori name korokio or korokia-tarango

**macrocarpa**: Large fruit

## NVS CODE

CORMCC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

### ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (25 April 2022). Description by P.J. de Lange (25 April 2022)

### NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Corokia macrocarpa* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corokia-macrocarpa/> (Date website was queried)

### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corokia-macrocarpa/>

### PDF DATE

11 March 2025