

# Dracophyllum patens

## COMMON NAMES

Great Barrier Inaka

## SYNONYMS

None (described in 1929)

## FAMILY

Ericaceae

## AUTHORITY

Dracophyllum patens W.R.B.Oliv.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

DRAPAT

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 26

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Brownish small shrub with erect twigs bearing untidy tufts of grass-like long narrow pointed leaves inhabiting upland areas of the Coromandel and Great Barrier Island. Leaves 30–75mm long by 2–6mm wide, surrounding stem at the base. Flowers arranged in a short spike, below the leaves.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand; North (Coromandel Peninsula (Maumaupaki, Table Mountain, upper Kauaeranga Valley, Pakirarahi, Hihi). and Great Barrier Islands

## HABITAT

Confined to exposures of rhyolite, hydrothermally altered andesites, and dacite rock within montane cloud forest (above 300 m a.s.l.) and regenerating shrubland within that altitudinal zone. Very rarely in tall forest.



Dracophyllum patens at Pakirarahi (June).  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence:  
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Dracophyllum patens at Pakirarahi (June).  
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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Sparingly branched, erect shrub up to 1.2 m tall (usually less). Mature bark grey, much marked by leaf abscission scars. Leaves often pinkish-green, to red-green, ascending at first, maturing patent and spreading; leaf sheath 8-10 x 3-4 mm with scarious margins, sheath narrowing to a thick subulate lamina, this 35.0-40.0 x 6.0-6.5 mm, broadly lanceolate, apex acute, with margins minutely serrulate. Leaves of juveniles less rigid; sheath to 15 mm long, lamina to 100 m. x 10 mm. Inflorescence terminal on lateral branchlets; racemose, 2-6-flowered, racemes subtended by a tuft of leaves. Lowest bracts foliose; sheath 3-4 mm long, shoulder ciliate, lamina ± 15 mm. long, ciliate, ± pubescent near sheath. Sepals broad, acute, sparingly ciliate. Corolla-tube c.4 mm long, white or pinkish white, subcampanulate. Style stout, c.2 mm long. Capsule more or less 2 mm diameter.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Dracophyllum patens* is most likely to be confused with *D. sinclairii* with which it sometimes grows. From *D. sinclairii*, *D. patens* is easily distinguished by its smaller stature (up to 1.5 m tall cf. up to 2.6 m tall), often pinkish-green to red-green leaves with broad sheaths and short, broad, lamina with acute rather than acuminate apices.

## FLOWERING

Throughout the year

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## FRUITING

Throughout the year

## LIFE CYCLE

Minute seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

## THREATS

Listed because it is a narrow range endemic . It is locally abundant in the places it has been reported from.

## ETYMOLOGY

**dracophyllum**: Dragon leaf, from its likeness to the dragon tree of the Canary Islands

**patens**: Spreading

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (14 May 2006). Description adapted from Allan (1961)

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence](#).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dracophyllum-patens/>

## PDF DATE

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