

Geniostoma ligustrifolium var. crassum

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Shrub bearing pale green thick leaves that are silvery pale underneath inhabiting the northern tip of the North Island. Leaves rounded or pointed, more or less fleshy. Flowers small, green, slightly hairy, in clusters at base of leaf. Fruit a dry capsule splitting in two to show small orange seeds.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

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DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Loganiaceae

AUTHORITY

Geniostoma ligustrifolium var. *crassum* Cheeseman

SYNONYMS

Geniostoma rupestre var. *ligustrifolium* (A.Cunn.) B.J.Conn

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Geniostoma ligustrifolium var. *crassum* is a distinct ultramafic endemic with a lianoid trailing habit. It has proved virtually impossible to maintain in cultivation without regular applications of serpentinite. On the Surville Cliffs it is occasionally sympatric with *G. ligustrifolium* var. *ligustrifolium*, an upright shrub or small tree that dislikes ultramafic soils. The opinion of Murray & de Lange (1999) is here followed in treating both taxa as distinct and further suggesting that var. *crassum* warrants species rank (see *Geniostoma ligustrifolium* var. *ligustrifolium*).

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

OTHER INFORMATION



In cultivation ex Surville Cliffs. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 04/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Surville Cliffs, Te Pahi. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/10/2009, Licence: CC BY.

ETYMOLOGY

geniostoma: The tribe with pitted seed

ligustrifolium: From the genus Ligustrum privet and the Greek word phylum 'leaf', meaning privet-leaved

crassum: Thick

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, ST, OL

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Murray, B.G.; de Lange, P. J. 1999: Contributions to a chromosome atlas of the New Zealand flora - 35. Miscellaneous families. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37: 511-521.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/geniostoma-ligustrifolium-var-crassum/>

PDF DATE

07 September 2025