

# Geniostoma ligustrifolium var. crassum

## SYNONYMS

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

## FAMILY

Loganiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Geniostoma ligustrifolium* var. *crassum* Cheeseman

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

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

2004 | Range Restricted

## BRIEF 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

## ETYMOLOGY

**geniostoma:** The tribe with pitted seed

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

**crassum:** Thick

## CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

*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*).



Surville Cliffs (September). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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

## 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/>