

# Melicytus alpinus

## COMMON NAME

porcupine shrub

## SYNONYMS

*Hymenanthera dentata* var. *alpina* Kirk, *Hymenanthera alpina* (Kirk) W.R.B.Oliv.

## FAMILY

Violaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Melicytus alpinus* (Kirk) Garn.-Jones

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

MELALP

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rigid dense small hard shrub with many thick tapering grey speckled branches bearing clusters of small dark green oval leaves. Leaves variable, about 1cm long, widest towards the blunt tip. Flowers inconspicuous, bell-shaped, underneath branches. Fruit white, usually with purple patches.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

## ETYMOLOGY

**melicytus:** From the Greek meli (honey) and kytos (hollow container), referring to the staminal nectaries of the flowers. Literally “honey-cave”

**alpinus:** From the Latin alpes ‘the Alps’, refers to plants growing in mountainous areas

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/melicytus-alpinus/>



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