

Carmichaelia corrugata

COMMON NAMES

dwarf broom

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPS, DPT, PF, RF

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Rare, very low-growing leafless shrub consisting of erect flattened yellow-green branches with a blunt orange tip. Branches 1.5-3.5mm wide, grooved, blunt-tipped. Flowers pea-like, pink with dark purple centre, in pairs. Fruit a dry pod with 4-6 hard seeds and which only partly opens.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White




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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dwarf, rhizomatous shrub, up to 20–80 mm tall, 1 m wide, forming a dense mat or tufts of cladodes. **Rhizomes** becoming increasingly stout and woody with age, 5–400 × 1–5 mm. **Cladodes** linear, striate, compressed, erect, yellow-green to orange-green, glabrous, 20.0–70.0 × 1.5–3.5 mm; apex subacute to obtuse, yellow to yellow-green; leaf nodes 2–12. **Leaves** simple, broad-obovate to broad-elliptic, fleshy, entire, green, present on seedlings and absent on mature plants, 5.5–8.0 × 3.0–5.0 mm; adaxial and abaxial surfaces with scattered hairs; apex emarginate to retuse; base cuneate to narrow-obtuse; petiole sparsely hairy, 2.0–2.5 mm long. Leaves on cladodes reduced to a scale, triangular, glabrous, 0.6–1.5 × 0.8–1.4 mm; apex acute. **Inflorescence** a 1–2-flowered raceme. **Peduncle** glabrous or sparsely hairy, green, 5–15 mm long. **Bracts** triangular, glabrous, pale green, 0.5–1.0 mm long; apex obtuse; margin hairy. **Pedicele** glabrous or hairy, pale green, 3.0–7.5 mm long. **Bracteoles** at top of pedicel, triangular, glabrous, green and often flushed red, c. 0.2 × c. 0.2 mm; margin hairy; apex acute. **Calyx** campanulate, c. 2.5 × c. 2.5 mm; inner surface glabrous, green; outer surface glabrous or sparsely hairy, green. **Calyx lobes** triangular, flushed red, c. 0.5 mm long; apex acute; margin hairy or glabrous. **Bud** green. **Standard** obovate, patent, 8–10 × 6–8 mm; upper surface central area purple, margin white, sometimes purple–green veined; lower surface green, margin cream–green, sometimes purple–green veined; apex retuse; claw pale green, c. 1.5 mm long. **Wings** oblong, shorter than keel, 5.0–6.5 × c. 2.0 mm; upper surface distal area purple, proximal area green; lower surface white, sometimes purple-veined; auricle triangular, pale green, apex obtuse, c. 1.25 mm long; claw pale green, c. 1.5 mm long. **Keel** 6.0–8.0 × 2.5–3.0 mm; distal area of adaxial surface purple, proximal area pale green; distal area of abaxial surface purple–green, proximal area pale green; auricle triangular, pale green, with obtuse apex, c. 0.75 mm long; claw pale green, 2.0–2.5 mm long. **Stamens** 7.5–9 mm long; lower filaments connate for c.  length and outside filaments free for 1.5–2.5 mm. **Pistil** exerted beyond stamens, c. 10 mm long; style with a ring of hairs below stigma, and sometimes a few scattered hairs on upper surface; ovules 9–11. **Pod** elliptic-oblong, laterally compressed, weakly falcate, black, brown, or grey, 7.5–15.0 × 3.0–4.0 mm; one valve partially dehiscent from base; beak on adaxial suture, slightly upturned, stout, pungent, 1.5–2 mm long. **Seeds** oblong-reniform, 2–9 per pod, black, brown, tan, or olive green, 1.2–2.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *C. uniflora* Kirk by its larger diameter rhizome; partially dehiscent pod; cladodes which are broader, more robust, often longer, and yellow–green or orange–green in colour; and by the usually two-flowered inflorescence.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Marlborough, Canterbury including Banks Peninsula, Otago and northern Southland).

HABITAT

Inhabiting sparsely vegetated gravel and sand soils, stone and gravel ridges, river terraces (especially dry sandy hummocks), river beds, and disturbed sites.

THREATS

Threatened by browsing livestock, goats, hares and rabbits, as well as loss and modification of the dryland habitats it often occupies.

GENUS

Carmichaelia

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Carmichaelia corrugata Colenso

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1883)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October–May

FRUITING

November–June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from seed and hardwood cuttings. A beautiful shrub which deserves wider cultivation.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for May 2010](#) for the full story.

ETYMOLOGY

carmichaelia: After Carmichael, a botanist

corrugata: From the Latin corrugatus ‘wrinkled’

NVS CODE

CARCOG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 96

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: RF, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, RF, Sp

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, PF, Sp Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the “[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)” Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan PB. 1995. A taxonomic revision of *Carmichaelia* (Fabaceae - Galegeae) in New Zealand (part I). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 33(4): 455–475. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1995.10410618>.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Heenan (1996). Fact Sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange (2 May 2008).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carmichaelia-corrugata/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026