

# Coprosma dodonaeifolia

## FAMILY

Rubiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Coprosma dodonaeifolia* W.R.B.Oliv.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

COPDOD

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Shrub with pairs of long thin wavy pointed leaves inhabiting upland areas in the vicinity of Coromandel and Great Barrier Island. Leaves 6-14cm long, with small pits at junction of veins, with a small spur between the base of the pairs of leaves. Fruit red, in clusters.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Great and Little Barrier Islands, Coromandel Peninsula south to at least Mt Te Aroha

## HABITAT

Lowland forest to Alpine scrub, 150-1950 m.a.s.l.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub, 2-3 m tall, with slender, erect, opposite branches arising at narrow angles from the stem. Branchlets slender, green, glabrous. Bark of branches reddish brown; branchlets sometimes whorled. Leaves on slender petioles approximately 10-20 mm long. Stipules triangular, denticle prominent. Lamina bright green above, not shining, paler below, thinly coriaceous, narrow-obovate to obovate, acute to obtuse, midrib mucronately produced; gradually narrowed to petiole; (65-) 100-110 (-120) x (20-) 30-35 mm; margins waved to subundulate. Reticulated nerves more or less evident on both surfaces. Male flower clusters of up to 7-9, corolla conspicuous, lobes triangular, acute, stamens 4-5, prominent. Female flower in clusters of 3 on peduncles approximately 10-20 mm long; calyx-teeth rather long, acute; corolla not seen. Drupe orange-red, oblong, 6-9 mm. long.



Table Mt, Thames, August. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



At Table Mt, Thames, August. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to Coprosma species of New Zealand

### SIMILAR TAXA

*Coprosma tenuifolia* has hairy leaf margins and midvein on upper surface; geographically more southern species, from Pirongia in the west and Raukumara Range in the east, the Tararua Range in the South.

### FLOWERING

November-December

### FRUITING

January-May (-June)

### LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy drupes are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

### ETYMOLOGY

**coprosma:** From the Greek kopros 'dung' and osme 'smell', referring to the foul smell of the species, literally 'dung smell'

**dodonaeifolia:** Dodonaeifolia: from 'dodonaea' genus named after Dodonaeus, the Latinised name of Rembert Dodoens (1517-1588), a Belgian botanist; and Latin 'folium' meaning leaf, having leaves like Dodonaea.

### ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).

### REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pg. 585.

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

### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/coprosma-dodonaeifolia/>