

Coprosma parviflora

COMMON NAMES

leafy coprosma

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub in Northland with flattened wide angled branches bearing abundant clusters of pairs of small oval leaves. Twigs fuzzy towards tip. Leaves with tiny hairs underneath (best detected using tongue), 7-12mm long. Fruit white, pink or dark violet.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Three Kings Islands, and the North Island from Te Pahi south to Auckland City (Remuera) but now extinct in the Auckland area. Still extant from the Kaipara Harbour north.

GENUS

Coprosma

FAMILY

Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY

Coprosma parviflora Hook.f.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

August - September (- October)

FRUITING

March - April (- October)

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

CULTIVATION

Occasionally sold by retail plant and specialist native plant nurseries.



Maunganui Bluff, September. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Maunganui Bluff, September. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

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

parviflora: From the Latin parvus 'small, puny' and flores 'flowers', meaning small-flowered.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to Coprosma species of New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

COPPAR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 132

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, PF, RF Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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-parviflora/>

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27 May 2026