

Coprosma rugosa

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Orangeish very bushy large shrub with many interlacing wide-angled twigs bearing clusters of pairs of very narrow leaves. Twigs fuzzy becoming orange towards base. Leaves 10-14 mm long by up to 1.5mm wide, sometimes bearing tiny clusters of hairs on upper side (lens needed). Fruit pale blue.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY

Coprosma rugosa Cheeseman

SYNONYMS

Plagianthus linarifolia Buchanan, *Coprosma antipoda* W.R.B.Oliv.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

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

rugosa: Wrinkled



Arthurs Pass, May. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Arthurs Pass, May. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to Coprosma species of New Zealand

NVS CODE

COPRUG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2024 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: TL

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

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-rugosa/>

PDF DATE

10 March 2025