

Corokia buddleioides

COMMON NAMES

korokio

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Shrub with narrow pointed glossy leaves that are white underneath inhabiting the northern North Island. Leaves somewhat leathery, 5–15cm long by 1–3cm wide, with white fuzz underneath. Flower yellow, arranged in a short spike. Fruit red or dark red.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Much-branched shrub up to 3 m or more tall. **Branchlets** slender, not divaricate; bark dark, rough. **Leaves** alternate, coriaceous, 50–150 × 10–30 mm, on stout petioles up to 10 mm long; lamina narrow- to rather broad-lanceolate, acuminate to acute. **Panicles** terminal and axillary, up to 50 mm long. **Flowers** approximately 7–10 mm diameter; calyx-segments ovate-oblong, obtuse, approximately 2–3 mm long; petals bright to pale yellow, approximately 5 mm long, ovate-lanceolate-oblong, subacute. **Drupes** bright to dark red to black, approximately 6–7 mm long.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island. Northland south to outliers in New Plymouth and the volcanic plateau, not seen east of Bay of Plenty.

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland forest and forest margins.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Argophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Corokia buddleioides A.Cunn.

SYNONYMS

Corokia buddleioides var. *linearis* Cheeseman



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 27/09/2004, Licence: CC BY.



Mt Donald McLean. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Where *Corokia buddleioides* and *C. cotoneaster* grow in company, complex hybrid swarms are often seen. Fruit may be produced, but the viability of the seeds has not been tested, though it seems certain that many wild plants of a hybrid population belong to the second filial generation. Carse (1912), when describing the mid-forms as *C. cheesemanii* says: "This description applies to the type specimens, but the plant appears to pass by regular gradations into *C. cotoneaster* on the one hand, and into *C. buddleioides* on the other, with a tendency in one form to a broadening of the leaves bringing the species very close to the Chatham Island *C. macrocarpa*."

Analysis of leaf characters has shown that the distinguishing characters of *Corokia buddleioides* var. *linearis* (leaf length and width) falls within the natural variation of *C. buddleioides* (Heenan 2023). Therefore Heenan (2023) concluded that *C. buddleioides* var. *linearis* does not warrant taxonomic recognition and should be treated as a synonym of *C. buddleioides*.

Corokia buddleioides var. *buddleioides* is an autonym. Autonyms are created with the recognition of comparable infraspecific rank names, in this case *Corokia buddleioides* var. *linearis*. In eliminating the variety *C. buddleioides* var. *linearis*, the autonym *C. buddleioides* var. *buddleioides* is redundant.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

November–April

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

corokia: From the Maori name korokio or korokia-tarango

buddleioides: Like a buddleia

NVS CODE

CORBUD

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pp. 441–442 of 1023 p.
- Carse H. 1912. *Corokia cheesemanii*. *Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 45: 376.
- Heenan PB. 2023. Taxonomic notes on the New Zealand flora: the status of four varietal names in *Brachyglottis* (Asteraceae), *Corokia* (Argophyllaceae), *Mida* (Nanodeaceae) and *Teucrium* (Labiatae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, (published online November 2023) DOI: [10.1080/0028825X.2023.2276282](https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2023.2276282).
- Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corokia-buddleioides/>

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