

Cotoneaster franchetii

COMMON NAME

cotoneaster, Franchet's cotoneaster

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Cotoneaster franchetii Bois

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Widely branched shrub with arching branchlets, foliage conspicuously grey from a distance (young leaves densely hairy on both surfaces and remaining white-felted below when mature). Flowers with pink erect petals. Fruit orange with 3-5 pyrenes.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Outcompetes native shrub species in a wide variety of habitats. Usually dry forest and shrubland up to 300 m, forest margins, dry rangeland, bluffs, rocky sites, slips, riverbeds.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Evergreen shrub up to c. 3 m high; stems spreading and often somewhat arching; young shoots pale buff-tomentose, later becoming dark reddish brown. Leaves up to 35 x 18 mm, more or less shining and finely pilose with impressed veins above, usually with white to grey woolly tomentum (rarely pale buff) below. Flowers in clusters of 7-15 scattered along branches, Petals erect and pink. Fruit ellipsoid, oblong-obovoid, obovoid, or subglobose, 5-9 mm long, scarlet or orange scarlet.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to *Cotoneaster* species present in New Zealand](#)

SIMILAR TAXA

Has been confused with *C. pannosus*, but that species has flowers with spreading petals and almost always has 2 pyrenes ('seeds') per fruit, whereas *C. franchetii* has flowers with erect petals and mostly has 3 (up to 5) pyrenes per fruit.

FLOWERING

November, December, January

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Very long lived. Large numbers of viable seed are produced in each fruit. Fruit are readily dispersed by birds.

YEAR NATURALISED

1958



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ORIGIN

China

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Very tolerant of damp and drought, hot and cold, salt, and a range of soils.

ETYMOLOGY

cotoneaster: From cotoneus an old Latin name for the quince, and possibly aster, corruption of adinstar 'resembling', i.e. quince-like

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cotoneaster-franchetii/>