

Carmichaelia crassicaulis subsp. crassicaulis

COMMON NAME

coral broom

SYNONYMS

Corallospartium crassicaule (Hook.f.) J.B.Armstr.; *Corallospartium crassicaule* var. *crassicaule* (Hook.f.) J.B.Armstr.

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Carmichaelia crassicaulis Hook.f. subsp. *crassicaulis*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

CARCSC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: RF

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: RF

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: RF

2004 | Gradual Decline

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rare robust shrub with erect leafless thick blunt-tipped grooved branches. Branches to 1cm in diameter, tip oval in cross section, grooves filled with white fuzz. Flowers small, pea-like, pale pink, streaked with purple. Fruit a small dry hairy pod with a long curved tip and containing 1-3 hard yellow seeds.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island: east of the main divide.

HABITAT

Upland and subalpine grassland, scrub and rock.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rigid shrub up to 2m tall. Branches stout, erect, yellowish-green, deeply grooved with numerous parallel hair-lined grooves. Branchlets similar but somewhat flattened, up to 1cm or more diameter, new growth densely covered in white hairs. Juvenile leaves almost round, adult leaves oblong. Plants nearly leafless when mature. Flowers creamy coloured, 6mm long, up to 20 in a tight cluster. Flower stalks and sepals covered in thick, soft, white hair. Seed pods 6-7mm long, rounded, usually one-seeded.

SIMILAR TAXA

Other *Carmichaelia* species. *C. crassicaule* has stout, erect, grooved branches, compressed one-seeded pods and tight bundles of flowers with woolly sepals.

FLOWERING

December - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Violet/Purple

FRUITING

March - May

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are possibly dispersed by wind and granivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Can be grown with some difficulty from semi hardwood cuttings. Dislikes humidity and once established should not be moved.

ETYMOLOGY

carmichaelia: After Carmichael, a botanist

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 28 October 2009. Description based on Allan (1961)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer.

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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carmichaelia-crassicaulis-subsp-crassicaulis/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carmichaelia-crassicaulis-subsp-crassicaulis/>