

# Carmichaelia crassicaulis subsp. racemosa

## COMMON NAME

slender coral broom

## SYNONYMS

*Corallospartium racemosum* (Kirk) Ckn. et Allan, *Corallospartium crassicaule* var. *racemosum* Kirk

## FAMILY

Fabaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Carmichaelia crassicaulis* subsp. *racemosum* (Kirk) Heenan

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

CARCSR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RF

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RF

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RF

2004 | Data Deficient

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rare shrub with erect leafless blunt-tipped grooved branches. Branches 5mm in diameter, 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

Endemic. South Island (Canterbury (Mt Somers, Rangitata) Otago (Lindis Pass, western Otago (especially on the mountains around Lake Wakatipu).

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Inhabiting sparsely vegetated greywacke and schist rock outcrops, small bluffs, talus slopes and colluvium, also within riparian shrubland.



*Carmichaelia crassicaulis* subsp. *racemosum*.  
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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Lax, spreading to upright, leafless shrub up to 1.2 m. tall, with few, spreading, rather pliant subcylindric branches. Cladodes slender, wiry, 1.8-4.1 × 1.8-2.1 mm diameter, spreading with ascending tips, yellowish to yellow-brown, or grey, finely grooved. Leaves most present in seedlings and juveniles, absent on adults; lamina simple, obovate, suborbicular or oblong, 4.0-6.0 × 2.0-6.0 mm, upper and lower surfaces puberulent, glabrescent; apex emarginate or retuse; base cuneate; petiole puberulent, c.1.6 mm long. Leaves on cladodes reduced to a papery scale, triangular, glabrous, < 0.3 mm long; apex acute. Inflorescence 1 per node, in 1-6-flowered fascicles. Bracts broadly triangular, 0.4-0.9 mm long, pale green to hyaline, minutely hairy. Pedicel densely hairy, dark grey-green, 0.8-1.2 mm long. Calyx 4 × 3 mm, campanulate to narrowly turbinate; dark green to greenish brown flushed with red, outer surface densely invested in grey felted hairs. Calyx lobes 5, narrowly triangular, dark green flushed with red, 1.0-1.5 mm long, hairy, apex acute. Standard broadly obovate, initially patent, margins strongly recurved, 5-6 × 3-5 mm; centrally blotched purple, otherwise striped purple 10-16 times, margins cream. Wings broadly oblong, ± equal to keel, c.6 × 3 mm, basally blotched purple, purple striped 1-3 times, margins cream. Keel about 6 mm long, incurved, central portion purple, otherwise cream, often faintly striped purple. Stamens 5.5-6.0 mm long. Pistil exerted beyond stamens, 7-8 mm long. Pods ± orbicular to unequally deltoid, compressed, grey-brown to dark grey, outer surface densely covered in grey felted hairs, valves ± indehiscent, 6-8 × 5-8 mm; beak, stout, pungent, 0.6-1.0 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from coral broom (*Carmichaelia crassicaulis* subsp. *crassicaulis*) by the lax, spreading rather than stout, erect growth habit, slender, cladodes 1.8-4.1 × 1.8-2.1 mm diameter rather than 4.1-7.8 × 3.2-4.9 mm diameter in subsp. *crassicaulis*. Both subspecies have not been found growing together.

## FLOWERING

December to January

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Violet/Purple

## FRUITING

March to May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from seed and hardwood cuttings. However, cuttings can be very slow to strike. A slow growing plant suitable for a sunny site. Should be planted free draining soil.

## THREATS

Like the majority of South Island *Carmichaelia* slender coral broom is mostly threatened by the lack of regeneration. Most populations now comprise mature or senescent adults, and it is only in inaccessible sites such as gorges and cliff faces that seedlings and juvenile plants are seen. Slender coral broom is also highly palatable, and is often severely damaged by hares, rabbits, and at times sheep and goats.

## ETYMOLOGY

**carmichaelia**: After Carmichael, a botanist

**racemosa**: Raceme bearing

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 28 October 2009. Description from de Lange et al. (2010).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand, Christchurch, Canterbury University Press. 471pp

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Carmichaelia crassicaulis* subsp. *racemosa* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

**MORE INFORMATION**

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