

Coprosma petriei

COMMON NAME

Turfy coprosma

FAMILY

Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY

Coprosma petriei Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

COPPET

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Dwarf low-growing sprawling shrub forming patches to several metres in diameter with erect pairs of narrow small leaves with tiny hairs on the upper surface inhabiting open upland areas. Leaves 5-10mm long. Small group of hairs on stem between leaf bases. Fruit blueish.

DISTRIBUTION

North & South Islands. North - On the Volcanic Plateau; South - Widespread but often local in the eastern side as far south as Otago.

HABITAT

Montane to Subalpine. 700-1500 m. Often common on open, well-drained or rocky sites in tussock grassland or on moraine or gravel river flats, where it may form extensive mats.



Hakataramea saddle, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Hakataramea saddle, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subshrub forming dense low mats or cushions up to more or less 2 m across, usually smaller. Branches creeping and rooting, bark dark brown; branchlets slender, pubescent. Leaves densely crowded, sessile or subsessile, usually fascicled on short branchlets. Stipules rather broadly triangular, subacute, sheathing, pubescent, ciliolate. Lamina coriaceous, dark green above, paler below, more or less pubescent (excluding apex), narrowly elliptic to obovate to oblong, cuneately narrowed to base, acute, (3-) 5 (-10) x 1-3 mm; margins entire. Midrib alone evident or obscure. Flowers greenish; male flower solitary, terminal, more or less 20 mm long, filaments lengthening at anthesis; calyx obsolete or vestigial; corolla funnelform, lobes acute or subacute; female flower solitary, terminal; calyx-teeth narrow-triangular; corolla tubular, short. Drupes pale blue, globose, 6-8 mm diameter.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to Coprosma species of New Zealand](#)

SIMILAR TAXA

Coprosma atropurpurea has dark magenta fruit when ripe; generally darker coloured foliage; weft of hairs on leaf apex.

FLOWERING

September-December

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

FRUITING

January-May (-September)

LIFE CYCLE

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

ETYMOLOGY

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

petriei: Named after Donald Petrie (1846 -1925), Scottish born Otago botanist

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961) and Mark (2012).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pg. 566.

Mark, A. F. 2012. Above the Treeline: A Nature Guide to Alpine New Zealand. Craig Potton Publishing, Nelson. pg. 167-168.

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-petriei/>