

Corokia buddleioides

COMMON NAME

korokio

SYNONYMS

Corokia buddleioides var. *linearis* Cheeseman

FAMILY

Argophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Corokia buddleioides A.Cunn.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

CORBUD

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF 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.

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.

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.



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



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FLOWERING

October–December

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

November–April

LIFE CYCLE

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

ETYMOLOGY

corokia: From the Maori name korokio or korokia-tarango

buddleioides: Like a buddleia

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.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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