

# Dracophyllum filifolium

## COMMON NAME

inanga

## SYNONYMS

*Dracophyllum setifolium* Stcheigl.; *Dracophyllum pungens* Colenso; *Dracophyllum virgatum* Colenso; *Dracophyllum heterophyllum* Colenso; *Dracophyllum xvulcanicum*; *Dracophyllum urvillianum* var. *filifolium* Cheeseman; *Dracophyllum collinum* W.R.B. Oliv.; *Dracophyllum filifolium* var. *centrale* W.R.B. Oliv.; *Dracophyllum filifolium* var. *collinum* W.R.B. Oliv.

## FAMILY

Ericaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Dracophyllum filifolium* Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

DRAFIL

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Shrub or small tree (up to 4 m tall) of lowland to montane forest, shrubland and grassland. Leaves grass-like, erect. Flowers white, borne in spikes, with the inflorescence bracts and flower bracts distinctly longer than the flowers.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura from Huiarau Range south.

## HABITAT

*Dracophyllum filifolium* is found in lowland to montane forest, shrubland and grassland from sea level (southern part of range only) along mountain slopes on saddles and mountain ridges up 1500 m a.s.l.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Mangahuaia, Ruapehu, April. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mangahuaia, Ruapehu, April. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect multi-stemmed shrub or tree, 1–4 m tall. **Bark** on old branches grey to brown, finely fissured, young stems reddish brown. **Leaves** erect to spreading; lamina sheath 6.0–16.0 × 3.0–5.5 mm, membranous, shoulders tapering to auricled, margins ciliate in the upper half; lamina linear to linear-triangular, 40.0–200.0 × 0.7–1.5 mm, surfaces glabrous with a tuft of scabrid hairs at base of adaxial surface, slightly striated; margins serrulate with 18–25 teeth per 10 mm; apex acute to weakly triquetrous. **Inflorescence** a terminal spike on lateral branchlets, shorter than leaves, erect to drooping, dense, 20–30 mm long, linear-oblong; inflorescence bract over-topping flowers, ovate-lanceolate, 8.5–17 × 2–4 mm, surfaces glabrous; margins ciliate. **Flowers** 5–10, sessile; flower bracts over-topping flowers, broadly-ovate; 5.6–13.0 × 3.0–4.0 mm, surfaces glabrous with a tuft of scabrid hair at base of adaxial surface, margins ciliate. **Sepals** 4.0–6.0 × 1.5–1.7 mm, ovate-lanceolate, occasionally ovate, equaling corolla tube, surfaces glabrous; margins ciliate. **Corolla** white; corolla tube 3.5–6.0 × 1.8–2.5 mm, cylindrical; corolla lobes reflexed, 1.5–2.0 × 1.5–1.6 mm, ovate, shorter than corolla tube, apices subacute to acute; surfaces glabrous. **Stamens** inserted on corolla tube in upper third, filaments 0.2–0.3 mm long; anthers included, oblong, light yellow and 1 mm long. **Ovary** subglobose, 1.5–2.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, glabrous, apex round; nectary scales 0.7–1.0 × 0.5–0.7 mm, oblong; apices obtuse to retuse; style included, 1–2 mm long, glabrous; stigma five-lobed. **Fruit** sessile, 2.0–2.5 × 2.0–2.2 mm, light brown, obovoid, apex round, glabrous. **Seeds** 0.8–1.2 mm long, yellowish brown, filiform, testa slightly reticulate.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Dracophyllum filifolium* is recognised by the spicate inflorescences which are 17–24 mm long; by the inflorescence bracts and flower bracts distinctly longer than the flower; by the sepals equal to the corolla tube which is 3.0–4.5 mm long; by the corolla lobes 1.5–2.0 mm wide, and by the nectary scales which are 1.0–1.3 mm long and have obtuse apices. *Dracophyllum filifolium* is similar to *D. urvilleanum* and *D. lessonianum* species with which it never grows and from which it differs in leaf, inflorescence and flower characters given above.

## FLOWERING

November–June

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

Throughout the year

## LIFE CYCLE

Minute seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

## ETYMOLOGY

**dracophyllum**: Dragon leaf, from its likeness to the dragon tree of the Canary Islands

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (4 June 2012). Description adapted from Venter (2009)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Venter S. 2009. A taxonomic revision of the genus *Dracophyllum* Labill. (Ericaceae). Unpublished Phd Thesis, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dracophyllum-filifolium/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dracophyllum-filifolium/>