

Dracophyllum frondosum

COMMON NAME

sprawling inaka, sprawling turpentine scrub

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Dracophyllum frondosum (G.Simpson) S.Venter

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

DRAUVF

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Dp, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: PD

2004 | Range Restricted

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low-growing grassy shrub with branches that droop down slopes and tufts of narrow wavy leaves at tips of twigs. Leaves 18-34mm long by 0.5-1.5mm wide. Flowers white, tubular, 7-10mm long, solitary at the tips of short side branches.

DISTRIBUTION

South Marlborough, central and eastern Otago.

HABITAT

Dracophyllum frondosum is an land lowland to montane plant of rocky gorges and river sides and on cliff faces, especially in the schist country of eastern Otago where it can be locally abundant.



Dracophyllum uniflorum var. *frondosum*.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Spreading to decumbent multi-stemmed shrub 0.50–1.0 m tall. Bark on old branches greyish to dark brown, finely fissured, young stems reddish brown. Leaves erect to spreading; lamina sheath, 3.5–7.5 × 2.0–5.0 mm, light green to olive green, margin membranous, shoulders rounded to auricled, ciliate or only the top half ciliate; lamina 18.0–58.0 × 0.5–2.0 mm, light green to olive green, linear, adaxial surface minutely rugose with a tuft of scabrid hairs at base, abaxial surface glabrous; margins serrulate with 60–80 teeth per 10 mm; apex triquetrous and keeled. Inflorescence a terminal, solitary, erect flower on lateral branches, shorter than leaves; flower bract over-topping the flower, foliose, coriaceous, 5.5–11.0 × 0.4–1.2 mm linear; adaxial surface scabrid, abaxial surface glabrous, margin serrulate. Sepals 4.5–9.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm, lanceolate, equaling corolla tube, surfaces glabrous with the top half pubescent on adaxial surface; margins serrulate. Corolla white; corolla tube 5.5–7.0 × 1.5–4.0 mm, cylindrical, widened at mouth, exterior glabrous; corolla lobes reflexed, 1.4–1.5 × 1.0–1.2 mm, ovate-triangular to triangular, shorter than corolla tube, apices inflexed, acute; apical ridge prominent, adaxial surface papillate. Stamens inserted on corolla tube in upper third, filaments 0.3–1.2 mm long; anthers included, oblong, light yellow, 1.0–1.2 mm long. Ovary 2.5–4.5 × 1.2–2.5 mm, cylindrical, apex truncate; nectary scales 1.2–1.5 × 0.5–0.7 mm, rectangular, apices subacute to retuse; style included, 2–4 mm long, glabrous; stigma five-lobed. Fruit sessile, 4.0–4.2 × 2.0–3.0 mm, light brown, broadly obovoid, apex truncate, glabrous. Seed 0.6–0.7 mm long, brown, ovoid, testa slightly reticulate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Dracophyllum frondosum is distinguished by the lax, spreading growth habit (often with arching and/or pendulous branches); by the erect-spreading leaves that are 25–50 mm long with ciliate lamina sheaths and a prominent tuft of scabrid hairs at the base on the adaxial surface of the lamina; by the solitary flowers, and flower bracts which are longer than the flowers; by the corolla tube which is equal in length to the sepals; by the densely papillate corolla lobes and by the cylindrical ovary with truncate apex. *Dracophyllum frondosum* is most closely allied to *D. rosmarinifolium* with which it sometimes grows and from which it differs in the lax habit and scrambling stems. The flower bract is also longer than the flower and narrower (0.5–1.0 mm compared to 1.0–2.0 mm in *D. rosmarinifolium*) with the adaxial surface scabrid. The sepal in *Dracophyllum frondosum* equals the corolla tube and the adaxial surface texture of the sepal is pubescent in the top half and it is also longer (7–10 mm) and wider (2.0–3.0 mm compared to 1.2–2.5 mm in *D. rosmarinifolium*) than the corolla tube; the corolla lobes are shorter (1.4–1.5 mm compared to 2.0–2.5 mm in *D. rosmarinifolium*), with longer (1.0–1.2 mm compared to 0.3–0.5 mm in *D. rosmarinifolium*) filaments. *Dracophyllum frondosum* also has a longer (2.5–4.5 mm) cylindrical ovary with a truncate apex and a longer (3–4 mm) style.

FLOWERING

December – February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

March - August

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild

THREATS

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Nelson lakes Area, eastern Otago).

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (6 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.

Venter, S. 2021: A taxonomic revision of the Australasian genera *Dracophyllum* and *Richea* (Richeeae: Styphelioideae: Ericaceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 34: 1–205.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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