

Dracophyllum marmoricola

COMMON NAME

marble Inaka, marble turpentine shrub

SYNONYMS

None (described in 2002)

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Dracophyllum marmoricola S.Venter

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

DRAMAR

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low-growing sprawling blue-green shrub with short grass-like leaves crowded at twig tips inhabiting limestone areas in Northwest Nelson. Leaves blue-green, 6–32mm long by 1–2mm wide. Flowers white, tubular, crowded at tip of twigs.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island, restricted to North-West Nelson (Kahurangi National Park)

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine (1310–1790 m a.s.l.). Confined to marble exposures where it grows on dark sandy loam in open and exposed sites or in rock crevices in low cliffs in alpine tussock-herbfield.



Mt Arthur (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



At Mt Arthur (January). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrublet 2-15 cm tall, multi-stemmed, decumbent to prostrate and sometimes forming compact cushions; bark grey and smooth to finely fissured. Leaves spreading, crowded at the tips of branches, sheathing at base; sheath glaucous, 2.2-6.5 x 3-4 mm, subcoriaceous, shoulder rounded to truncate, margin ciliate; lamina coriaceous, glaucous, linear-triangular to broadly linear-triangular, 5.6-32.0 x 0.75-2.00 mm, slightly concave, surfaces minutely verrucose, margin serrulate, with 12-13 teeth per cm, apex triquetrous. Inflorescence an oblong raceme terminal on branches, dense, 9-24 mm long with 3-8 flowers; inflorescence bracts persistent, longer than flower, coriaceous, light green to glaucous, subulate, 7.5-10.5 x 0.6-1.4 mm at base, verrucose with serrulate margin; flower bract persistent, shorter than flower, coriaceous, broadly ovate, 5-7 x 3.0-4.5 mm, glabrous, margin ciliate, subacute to acute. Flowers sessile. Sepals green to reddish brown, ovate-lanceolate, 4.5-5.5 x 1.5-2.0 mm, equal to shorter than corolla tube, glabrous, ciliate; apex subacute to acute. Corolla white; tube cylindrical, 4.0-6.5 x 2.0-2.5 mm, glabrous; lobes spreading to reflexed, broadly triangular, shorter than corolla tube, 1.5-2.2 x 1.5-1.8 mm, acute to subacute, adaxial surface papillate, abaxial surface glabrous. Stamens epipetalous, 0.4-0.5 mm long; in upper third of corolla tube, anthers light yellow, oblong, 0.6-0.8 mm long, included. Nectary scales separate, rectangular, 0.7-0.8 x 0.4-0.8 mm, apex truncate and emarginate to variously toothed, glabrous; ovary obovate, 1.4-1.5 x 1.3-1.5 mm, apex truncate, glabrous; style enclosed, 1.5 mm long, glabrous; stigma 5-lobed. Capsule sessile, light brown, 2.5-3.5 x 1.8-2.0 mm, obovoid, glabrous, enclosed in persistent sepals; style persistent; seed light brown, ovoid, 1 mm long, surface slightly reticulate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Dracophyllum recurvum* but differs in the leaves being minutely rugose to verrucose, not recurved at the apices, flower bracts shorter than flower, sepals glabrous, and apex of ovary truncate. It differs from *Dracophyllum kirkii* in the narrower verrucose leaves with triquetrous apices and the racemose inflorescence.

FLOWERING

December - March

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

April - May

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild

THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a narrow-range, marble endemic confined to few mountain ranges within Kahurangi National Park.

ETYMOLOGY

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

marmoricola: From the Latin marmor 'marble' and cola 'colour', meaning marble-coloured

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (4 January 2004). Description adapted from Venter (2002)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Venter, S. 2002: *Dracophyllum marmoricola* and *Dracophyllum ophioliticum* (Ericaceae), two new species from north-west Nelson, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 40: 39-47

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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