

Watsonia meriana var. bulbillifera

COMMON NAME

bulbil watsonia

FAMILY

Iridaceae

AUTHORITY

Watsonia meriana var. bulbillifera (J.W.Mathews & L.Bolus) D.A.Cooke

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Gladiolus-like, clump-forming, summer-green perennial to 2 m tall. Stout corms, 5-7 cm diam, with thick fibrous coat, multiply at ground level. Stem stiffly erect, 2 cm diam. Leaves sword-shaped, 2-5 x 30-60 cm, arising from base, folded, tough, fibrous, light green. Flowers curved, brick-red to salmon pink and 6-8cm long - numerous in a terminal spike. Petals 6, fused. Produces numerous brown cormils in clusters of up to 16 at nodes on the upper stem.

SIMILAR TAXA

Formerly known as *Watsonia bulbillifera*

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

LIFE CYCLE

Seed is not produced. Corms and cormils are spread by machinery, and in dumped garden waste.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/watsonia-meriana-var-bulbillifera/>

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Flowering Watsonia bulbillifera. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.