



Carmichaelia crassicaulis subsp. *racemosa*

Common Name(s):

slender coral broom

Current Threat Status (2012):

Nationally Vulnerable

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island (Canterbury (Mt Somers, Rangitata) Otago (Lindis Pass, western Otago (especially on the mountains around Lake Wakatipu).

Habitat:

Montane to subalpine. Inhabiting sparsely vegetated greywacke and schist rock outcrops, small bluffs, talus slopes and colluvium, also within riparian shrubland.

Features*:

Lax, spreading to upright, leafless shrub up to 1.2 m. tall, with few, spreading, rather pliant subcylindric branches. Cladodes slender, wiry, 1.8-4.1 × 1.8-2.1 mm diameter, spreading with ascending tips, yellowish to yellow-brown, or grey, finely grooved. Leaves most present in seedlings and juveniles, absent on adults; lamina simple, obovate, suborbicular or oblong, 4.0-6.0 × 2.0-6.0 mm, upper and lower surfaces puberulent, glabrescent; apex emarginate or retuse; base cuneate; petiole puberulent, c.1.6 mm long. Leaves on cladodes reduced to a papery scale, triangular, glabrous, < 0.3 mm long; apex acute. Inflorescence 1 per node, in 1-6-flowered fascicles. Bracts broadly triangular, 0.4-0.9 mm long, pale green to hyaline, minutely hairy. Pedicel densely hairy, dark grey-green, 0.8-1.2 mm long. Calyx 4 × 3 mm, campanulate to narrowly turbinate; dark green to greenish brown flushed with red, outer surface densely invested in grey felted hairs. Calyx lobes 5, narrowly triangular, dark green flushed with red, 1.0-1.5 mm long, hairy, apex acute. Standard broadly obovate, initially patent, margins strongly recurved, 5-6 × 3-5 mm; centrally blotched purple, otherwise striped purple 10-16 times, margins cream. Wings broadly oblong, ± equal to keel, c.6 × 3 mm, basally blotched purple, purple striped 1-3 times, margins cream. Keel about 6 mm long, incurved, central portion purple, otherwise cream, often faintly striped purple. Stamens 5.5-6.0 mm long. Pistil exserted beyond stamens, 7-8 mm long. Pods ± orbicular to unequally deltoid, compressed, grey-brown to dark grey, outer surface densely covered in grey felted hairs, valves ± indehiscent, 6-8 × 5-8 mm; beak, stout, pungent, 0.6-1.0 mm long.

Flowering:

December to January

Fruiting:

March to May

Threats:

Like the majority of South Island *Carmichaelia* slender coral broom is mostly threatened by the lack of regeneration. Most populations now comprise mature or senescent adults, and it is only in inaccessible sites such as gorges and cliff faces that seedlings and juvenile plants are seen. Slender coral broom is also highly palatable, and is often severely damaged by hares, rabbits, and at times sheep and goats.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 28 October 2009. Description from de Lange et al. (2010).

References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand, Christchurch, Canterbury University Press. 471pp

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1743



Caption: Hawkdun Range
Photographer: John Barkla



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