



Carmichaelia torulosa

Common Name(s):

Canterbury Pink Broom

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Endangered

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Canterbury (Amuri Range (North Canterbury) to Te Ngawai River (South Canterbury))

Habitat:

A plant of forest margins, especially riparian shrubland and low forest, and on rock bluffs. It has also been found within a wetland. Plants grow in a range of vegetation types from grassland and open shrubland to closed shrubland and low forest, though it is most commonly an emergent within open to dense shrubland.

Features*:

Shrub or small tree up to 5 m tall. Trunk slender, brittle, usually branching close to base; branches slender, suberect to erect, leafless, initially red-green maturing grey to grey-green; branchlets numerous, suberect to erect, terete, dark green, 1.2-2.5 mm diameter. Inflorescences racemose, 1(-2) per node, up to c.50 mm long, slender, 1-10 flowered, flowers not crowded. Peduncle and pedicels glabrate. Bud pale pink to lavender. Flowers up to 8 mm long, lavender-pink in central and proximal areas, purple-veined. Calyx glabrous except on the broad obtuse teeth; standard rather narrow. Pods c.15-42 × 2 mm, subterete, strongly torulose; beak long, slender; seeds up to 15 per pod, Seeds reniform-elliptic to elliptic-oblong, up to 15 per pod, yellow-green, green, brown or orange-brown, marked or mottled with grey, dark purple-brown or black-brown 1.2-2.0 mm long.

Flowering:

December – January

Fruiting:

Throughout the year

Threats:

Like most other New Zealand brooms this species is threatened by regeneration failure due to competition with the exotic grass swards; competition by exotic woody weeds such as gorse (*Ulex europaeus* L.) and broom (*Cytisus scoparius*(L.) Link); damage associated with plantation management (e.g., through felling trees or planting into Canterbury pink broom sites); and from deliberate and accidental spraying through its confusion as a weed species, or by its association with target species.

*Attribution:

Description based on herbarium material held at AK.

References and further reading:

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* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

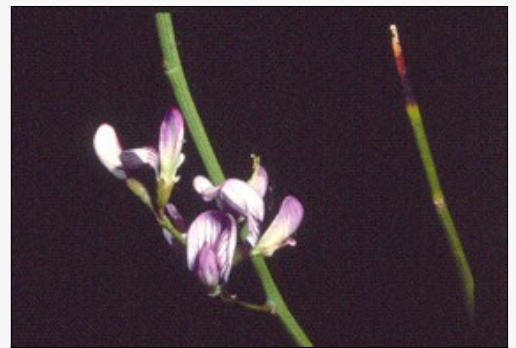
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=410



Caption: Snowdon Station, Canterbury

Photographer: Roy Veronese



Caption: Washpen Creek, Malvern Hills (January)

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth