



## *Carmichaelia muritai*

### Common Name(s):

coastal tree broom

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Endangered

### Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, Marlborough, vicinity of Clifford Bay

### Habitat:

Deeply eroded coastal cliffs on coarse, free draining gravel and loess, colluvial fans below cliffs.

### Features\*:

Leafless tree 5-6 m tall. Trunk, stout up to 250 mm diam. Branches numerous, grey-brown, uppermost erect, lower drooping. Bark smooth with raised rings at nodes. Branches compact, striate, deeply grooved, flat to round, 3.5 mm wide, grey-green maturing yellow-green, densely hairy, bearing stipules at emergent shoots. Leaves reduced to scales on mature shoots. Inflorescences lateral, erect, racemes up to 70 mm; solitary or in groups on flowering shoots arising at nodes. Flowers 4 x 4 mm. Peduncles hairy, 0.8 mm long; pedicels 1 mm, hairy. Calyx rim and outer tube hairy. Petals white with purple-violet markings toward standard and keel; veins of petals violet; standard suborbicular, longer than wings, margins reflexed; wings dolabriform, obtuse. Fruit a stramineous upturned, obliquely obovate 3.5 x 1.8 mm, greyish-white, pod. Seeds 1(-2) per pod, yellow-green, reniform, 1.5 x 1 mm.

### Flowering:

December – January

### Fruiting:

Present throughout the year

### Threats:

Only two small natural populations are known. One is seriously threatened by goats, summer drought, coastal erosion and weeds. The other though thriving is vulnerable to fire. All parts of *C. muritai*, though the seedlings especially, are highly sought after by browsing animals such as possums, goats, sheep, rabbits and hares.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 October 2003. Description adapted from Purdie (1985) - see also 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.

Purdie, A.W. 1985: *Chordospartium muritai* (Papilionaceae) a rare new species of New Zealand tree broom. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 23: 157-161

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=8](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=8)



**Caption:** Photo of flowering branch  
**Photographer:** Jan Clayton-Greene



**Photographer:** Barbara Mitcalfe