



## *Acrothamnus colensoi*

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands from about Kaingaroa Plain south.

### Habitat:

Montane to alpine extending to lower altitudes in shrubland, tussock grassland and peat bogs in the southern part of its range

### Features\*:

Dioecious (?gynodioecious) sprawling, prostrate, glaucescent pinkish green to red-brown shrubs forming much-branched to unevenly, sparingly-branched almost lianoid patches, 0.2-0.5 × 1.0-2.0 m. Branches spreading, ascending to erect, weakly ribbed to ± terete, grey-brown, unevenly pubescent but becoming glabrous with age. Leaves alternate, spreading, glabrous, bronze-green, pinkish green, glaucescent to dark red-brown with pale yellow margins, abaxially distinctly 3-5-nerved but veins not or scarcely raised above surface, veins greenish, interveinal grooves white; lamina 5-10 × 1-4 mm, narrow-oblong, oblong, concavo-convex; margins distinctly thickened, ± recurved, initially finely ciliolate, soon glabrous; apex obtuse, apiculate to mucronulate. Inflorescences near ends of branches, terminal, and/or in upper axils; racemose, 2-5-flowered, terminating in a bud-like rudiment. Flowers subtended by a bract and 2 keeled bracteoles; bract pinkish green to red, up to 2.5 mm long, glaucescent, broadly ovate, obtuse, ciliolate; bracteoles similar but smaller and distinctly keeled. Sepals up to 4 mm long, elliptic-oblong to ovate, obtuse, ciliolate, similar but smaller, imbricate with stomata only on the adaxial surface. Flowers seemingly unisexual, 6-8 mm long; corolla tube 4-5 mm long, hairy toward lobes; corolla-lobes 2.8-3.3 mm long, both surfaces copiously covered in hairs in distal half. Anthers emarginate, 0.4-0.6 mm long, apically attached by a short thin filament inserted near base of corolla tube sinus; the filaments ± exerted to almost hidden within tube, 0.3-0.5 mm long. Ovary 4-5-locular, spheroidal, glabrous, 0.5-1.0 × 0.5-0.8 mm wide; style straight, glabrous, 0.8-1.8 mm long; stigma 0.1 mm long usually immersed in tube, rarely partially exerted. Fruit, white, pink, red, dark crimson (rarely almost black), 4-5 mm diameter, globose. Endocarp 2.5-3.5 × 2.2-3.0 mm, pale brown, brown to orange-brown, broadly obovate, broadly ellipsoid to ovoid, indistinctly, longitudinally ridged 5×, surface somewhat granular.

### Flowering:

September - February

### Fruiting:

November - June

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (19 November 2014). Description based on Allan (1961), Quinn et al (2005), Webb & Simpson (2001) and observations made from fresh and dried specimens

### References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer.

Murray, B.G.; de Lange, P.J. 2013: Contributions to a chromosome atlas of the New Zealand flora – 40. Miscellaneous counts for 36 families. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 51: 31–60.

Quinn, C. J.; Brown, E. A.; Heslewood, M. M.; Crayn, D. M. 2005: Generic concepts in Styphelieae (Ericaceae): the *Cyathodes* group. *Australian Systematic Botany* 18: 439-454.

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.

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Christchurch, Manuka Press.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=927](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=927)



**Caption:** Cass, Canterbury  
**Photographer:** Jane Gosden



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