

Korthalsella clavata

COMMON NAME

dwarf mistletoe

SYNONYMS

Viscum clavatum Kirk, *Korthalsella lindsayi* var. *clavata* (Kirk) Danser

FAMILY

Viscaceae

AUTHORITY

Korthalsella clavata (Kirk) Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

KORCLA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Flattened beaded succulent very small (to 8 cm) shrub growing on twigs of another plant. Leaves (flattened stems) 5–10 mm long by 1.5–3.5 mm wide, widest towards tip. Flowers tiny, fruit small, green, on short spike.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from near Whakamaru south to Wairarapa and Turakirae Head), South Island (throughout, though notably more common in the east).

HABITAT

Coastal to subalpine. Usually found parasitising shrubs within grey scrub communities, also found on shrubs and trees within montane alluvial forest. No clear host preference is as yet evident, though regional patterns may exist (this needs study).

FLOWERING

October–March

FLOWER COLOURS

Green



At Lake Rotoiti, Nelson, December.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



L. Rotoiti, Nelson. December. Photographer:
John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FRUITING

October–June

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries are dispersed by ballistic projection, attachment and possibly frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

korthalsella: After Korthals, botanist

clavata: From the Latin clavatus 'club-shaped'

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Rebergen A, Sawyer JWD. 2005. *Korthalsella clavata* in the lower North Island. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 49: 11–15.

Nickrent DL, Malécot V, Vidal-Russell R, Der JP. 2010. A revised classification of Santalales. *Taxon* 59: 538–558. <https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.592019>.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/korthalsella-clavata/>