

Coprosma

A New Zealand plant genus

Coprosma classification

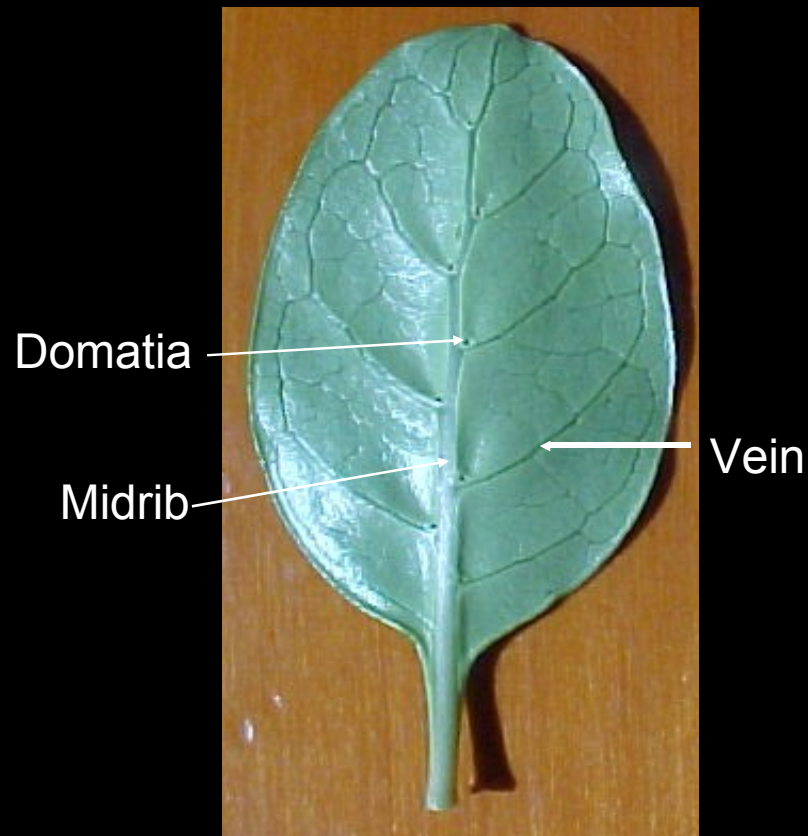
- Coprosma belong to the family rubiaceae
- Relatives in this family include:
coffee, gardenia, quinine and the well known dyeplants *madder* and *gambier*.
- There are 50 species of Coprosma in New Zealand.

Coprosma features

All coprosma exhibit the following

- **Stipules.** A scale like appendage at the base of each leaf node.
- **Opposite leaves or branches**
- **Domatia.** Pits present on the undersurface of the leaves, at the junction of the midrib and the main veins.
- **The fruit is a drupe or berry of various colours**
- **2 seeds per berry**
- **Dioecious.** male and female flowers on separate plants

Domatia. Pits present on the undersurface of the leaves, at the junction of the midrib and the main veins.



Coprosma
repens
taupata

Opposite leaves or branches



Coprosma propinqua

Coprosma lucida

Stipules. A scale like appendage at the base of each leaf node.



Berry like fruit of various colours



Dioecious. male and female flowers on separate plants



Coprosma lucida shining karamu



Male flowers



female flowers

Karamu is dioecious with male and female flowers found on separate plants



Coprosma robusta female



Coprosma robusta male

Most Coprosma have small and inconspicuous flowers



Large leafed Coprosma



Coprosma lucida C. repens

C. robusta

C. grandifolia

Coprosma lucida *shining Karamu*



Coprosma repens *taupata*



The glossy leaves make this plant ideally suited for coastal environments

Coprosma waima



This Coprosma is endemic to Waima in Northland. Note the lack of a petiole

Coprosma robusta *karamu*



- The most common large leaved Coprosma



Coprosma grandifolia



Common on riverbanks and low light areas

Small leaved coprosma

- There are about 45 species of coprosma which have small leaves.
- They look very similar and are difficult to identify
- Many are **filiforme** or **divaricating** (branches spread at a wide angle often intertangled. This is thought to be an adaptation to Moa browsing. The small leaves and twiggy habit make the plant an unpalatable food source)

Small leaved Coprosma

Coprosma
rhamnoides



Coprosma propinqua



Coprosma acerosa



Coprosma rhamnoides a divaricating plant

Divarication is
a feature of
many NZ
plants



Coprosma rhamnoides with its compact divaricating habit is one of the most common coprosma



Coprosma acerosa

The small leaves make this an ideal plant for dry conditions



This Coprosma is found on sand dunes where its prostrate habit allows it to grow through the shifting sands.

Coprosma rigida swamp *Coprosma*
grows on river banks and damp ground



Coprosma arboreus

The tree coprosma. The tallest coprosma



Coprosma rigida



Coprosma spathulata



- tonyf@taipa.school.nz