



# New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seed Bank

## Kowhai and its relatives

Kowhai (*Sophora*) is an iconic New Zealand tree with eight species found in forest and scrub vegetation throughout New Zealand. Kowhai and its relatives encompass some of the best known flowering plants of the New Zealand flora. Recent research has identified three new species of kowhai, and some of these are of limited distribution with little data on their habitat and behaviour. Kowhai also has several relatives including the native brooms (*Carmichaelia* species), which are mostly South Island species, and kaka beak (two *Clianthus* species) which are found in very few places in the North Island. Seventeen species in this group are At Risk or Threatened, due to threats in their native habitats such as browsing pests and/or habitat loss. Seed banking of this group will safeguard these species until the threats in their habitats can be overcome.