Ackama rosifolia

COMMON NAMES
Makamaka

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
Small Northland tree. Leaves consisting of 4 to 10 or more opposite pairs of toothed leaflets and a terminal leaflet which have small hairy pits at the junction of the main leaflet veins. Flowers in dense sprays of cream coloured flowers developing into pinkish or red fruits.

FLOWER COLOURS
Cream, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Shrub, becoming a tree up to 12 m tall; trunk up to 60 cm diameter; branchlets, petioles, young leaves and panicle-branches covered with short brownish hairs. Leaves pinnate, with a single terminal pinna; leaflets sharply serrate, subsessile, domatia present on underside. Leaves of juveniles sub- membranous, up to 25 cm long, 6-10 yoked together as a pair; terminal leaflet 3-6 cm long, including petiolule, 1.5-3 cm. wide, ovate-elliptic; lateral leaflets elliptic-oblong, diminishing downwards from 4-3 cm. to 1 cm. long. Leaves of adults subcoriaceous, 3-5 yoked together as a pair; terminal leaflet obovate-cuneate, acute, 4-7 cm. wide; lateral diminishing downwards from 4 cm to 1 cm long, elliptic-oblong; stipules foliaceous. Panicles much-branched, up to 15 cm long. Flowers numerous, approximately 3 mm. across. Sepals ovate, approximately 1 mm. long; petals narrow, approximately 1.5 mm. long, stamens exserted, styles approximately 1 mm. long. Capsules ovoid, pilose, approximately 3-4 mm. long, bearing persistent sepals and styles.

SIMILAR TAXA
Very similar to juvenile foliage of Weinmannia silvicola but can be distinguished by the domatia on the underside of the leaves. These domatia are known as tuft pocket domatia and occur at the junction of the mid-rib and the side vein where there is a pocket of hairs. Makamaka also has huge prominent stipules that are large, green and heavily veined.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. North Island only from near Kaitaia south to just north of Wellsford. Often rather local in its occurrences, particularly south of Whangarei.

HABITAT
Lowland forest, forest margins and stream-sides.

Fruit. In cultivation. Nov 2006. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

J.E. Braggins. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

GENUS
Ackama

FAMILY
Cunoniaceae

AUTHORITY
Ackama rosifolia A.Cunn.

SYNONYMS
Caldcluvia rosifolia (A.Cunn.) Hoogland

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
September-November

FRUITING
January-March

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Hairy carpels dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Can be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings and fresh seed. A fast growing, and rather attractive small tree. However, very drought intolerant, and needs a damp soil and sunny aspect to thrive.

ETYMOLOGY
ackama: Formed from its Maori name - maka-maka
rosifolia: Rose-leafed

NVS CODE
ACKROS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n=32

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.
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.

ATTRIBUTION
Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ackama-rosifolia/

PDF DATE

07 June 2026