

# Aristotelia fruticosa

## COMMON NAME

mountain wineberry

## FAMILY

Elaeocarpaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Aristotelia fruticosa* Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

ARIFRU

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A small-leaved shrub with hairy branchlets and veins evident on the underside of leaves.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura.

Throughout, but often localised in occurrence

## HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine forest understory and shrubland, commoner at higher elevations.



Balls clearing, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mount Holdsworth, Tararua Forest Park.  
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:  
09/02/2008, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dioecious, variable, much branched erect or low growing shrub, sometimes spiny, to 2 m tall; trunk and branches sub-divaricate to upright, rigid, sometimes entangled; bark reddish brown; branchlets reddish brown, pubescent. **Leaves** opposite or in opposite fascicles on arrested branchlets; petioles c. 2 mm long, widening into lamina; midvein inconspicuous above, midvein and secondary veins obvious below; lamina either 5–7 × 4–5 mm, obovate to oblong, coriaceous, dark green, or c. 15 × 9 mm, ovate to lanceolate, thinner, lighter green, margins distinctly serrate, tip acute to obtuse, base cuneate, undersides pale green. **Juvenile leaves** larger, thinner, irregularly lobed and serrate. **Inflorescences** inconspicuous, lateral along branchlets. **Flowers** c. 2–3 mm diam., solitary, in opposite pairs or in 3–6 flowered cymes, on short pubescent pedicels 1–2 mm long. **Sepals** 4, oblong, pubescent. **Petals** 4, slightly > sepals, with 1–4 crenate teeth, white to light pink to red. **Stamens** 4–6, not projecting beyond corolla, anthers > filaments. **Ovary** 2-celled(?), styles 2(?). **Fruit** a c. 2(?) seeded fleshy berry, 3–4 mm diam., pale, white, pink, bright red to black, bitter to taste. **Seed** irregularly angled, ventral surface flattened, elliptic, 2.0–2.6 mm, surface irregular, attachment scar obvious, small orange aril sometimes present.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other small leaved shrub species with veins conspicuous below, particularly *Raukawa anomalous* (which has a flattened, jointed petiole) and *Melicytus micranthus* (which has a pale blotch at the base of the lamina)

## FLOWERING

October–December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## FRUITING

November–April

## LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## ETYMOLOGY

**aristotelia**: Named after Aristotle, the Greek philosopher and polymath

**fruticosa**: Shrubby

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan 1961, Heenan and de Lange 2006, Eagle 2006 and Webb and Simpson 2001.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.
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- Eagle A. 2006. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of New Zealand. Te Papa Press, Wellington, NZ. 2-volume boxed set: vol. 1 pp 1–529; vol. 2: pp 532–1114.
- 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.
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## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aristotelia-fruticosa/>