

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

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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, South and Stewart Islands. Throughout, but often localised in occurrence

HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine forest understory and shrubland, commoner at higher altitudes



Balls clearing, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Mount Holdsworth, Tararua Forest Park.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

FEATURES

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 x 4-5 mm, obovate to oblong, coriaceous, dark green, or c. 15 x 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 *Raukaua 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 to 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 2000 and Webb and Simpson 2001.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Government Printer, Wellington

Heenan, P.B, de Lange, P.J. 2006. *Pseudowintera insperata* (Winteraceae), an overlooked and rare new species from northern New Zealand. NZ J. Botany 44: 89-98

Eagle, A. 2000. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of NZ. Te Papa Press, Wellington

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch

Wilson, H; Galloway, T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Manuka Press, Christchurch

CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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