

Aristotelia serrata

COMMON NAME

Makomako, wineberry

FAMILY

Elaeocarpaceae

AUTHORITY

Aristotelia serrata (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) W.R.B.Oliv.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

ARISER

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Much-branched small tree with thin heart-shaped sharply toothed leaves flushed with pink on the underside

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands. Throughout, but less common in drier areas.

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forests. Often forming dense thickets following disturbance.



December 1981. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Foliage. Photographer: Wayne Bennett

FEATURES

Dioecious tree to c. 10 m tall; trunk and branches upright, to 30 cm diam.; bark smooth, grey, spotted with lenticels; branchlets light to dark red, pubescent. Leaves opposite to subopposite; petiole slender, to 50 mm long, greenish often flushed pink; midvein conspicuous above, raised below; secondary veins obvious and raised below giving surface a wrinkled uneven appearance; lamina membranous, 5-12 x 4-8 cm, glabrate (pubescence may persist on veins below), broad-ovate, margin deeply doubly and irregularly sharply serrate, tip acuminate, base cordate to truncate, upper surface light or dark green, undersides pale green, frequently infused with purple or pink. Juvenile leaves larger. Inflorescences conspicuous, axillary, flowers 4-6 mm diam., in panicles 6-10 cm long, on slender pubescent pedicels 5-10 mm long. Sepals 4, ovate, c. 3 mm long, pubescent, pink; petals 4, 3-lobed (often deeply), c. 9 mm long, white to light pink to red. Stamens many, on glandular minutely pubescent disc, not exceeding petals. Ovary 3-4-celled, styles 3-4. Fruit a c. 8-seeded fleshy depressed-obovoid berry, 5 x 4 mm, bright red to black. Seed irregularly angled, ventral surface flattened, circular or broadly elliptic, 1.9-3.1 mm, surface irregular, aril absent.

SIMILAR TAXA

Superficial similarity to *Entelea arborescens* which is only found in northern New Zealand and which has a single (usually) cork trunk and a less sharply-toothed margin. The leaves of this species are never pink-flushed. Superficial similarity also to *Hoheria* and *Plagianthus* species, but the bark of these species falls in thin stringy strips (this is also evident when branchlets are broken).

FLOWERING

September-December

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

November-January

LIFE CYCLE

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

ETYMOLOGY

aristotelia: Named after Aristotle, the Greek philosopher and polymath

serrata: Saw-toothed

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

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

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Aristotelia serrata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aristotelia-serrata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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