

Ascarina lucida var. lanceolata

COMMON NAMES

Kermadec Islands Hutu

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small bushy tree of upland Kermadec Islands. Leaves narrow and tapering to a narrow tip and with coarse black-tipped teeth on margins. Flowers in clusters of spikes. Fruit small, white.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous gynodioecious tree up to 15 m tall. Trunk up to 500 mm diameter. Bark greyish-white. Branchlets slender, striate, initially pale green maturing dark green to emerald green. Interpetiolar stipules conspicuous, comprising 3 1.2–2.6 mm long pale pink to red, filaments; these connate near base, behind which are 3–6 smaller hyaline filaments. Petioles up to 15–20 mm long, lamina subcoriaceous, somewhat fleshy, 50–100 × 10–30 mm, green, emerald green to dark green above, paler beneath, serrations weakly pigmented, pink to pale maroon often fading into pale pink spotting, narrowly lanceolate, lanceolate, lanceolate-oblong to narrowly elliptic, acuminate to acute. Inflorescences spicate comprising female or mixed male and female spikes on separated trees; spikes congested, oppositely arranged, solitary or rather closely branched up to 5 times, branches up to 30 mm long. Flowers alternate, sessile, subtended by 4 green, 0.8–1.0 mm long, entire, deltoid to broadly ovate, acute bracts (apex pink or dotted with pink). Male flowers with one anther 2.0–3.0 mm long. Female flower smaller, solitary or 2–3 together located between anther and stem; stigma broad, sessile, ovary sessile. Fruit 3.0–2.0 mm long, broadly ovoid, fleshy, white and maroon-blotched or maroon-stripped, subcylindric drupe.

SIMILAR TAXA

Ascarina lucida var. *lucida* of the North and South Islands of New Zealand is clearly related. It differs from *A. lucida* var. *lanceolata* by the dark purple stems; by the 3 simple, conspicuous, reddish-purple filamentous stipules which lack fused bases; smaller, yellow-green leaves with purple-black or dark maroon pigmented serrations; more openly branched inflorescences with less congested flowers, and white drupes. *Ascarina lucida* var. *lucida* seems to be monoecious while *A. lucida* var. *lanceolata* appears to be gynodioecious - but this aspect needs further study.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Kermadec Islands, Raoul Island only.



Hutu. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.



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HABITAT

One of the characteristic trees of the wet forests of Raoul Island which are mostly found above 245m. However, in the ravines this tree may extend down to almost sea level. In the wet forest it is mostly a subcanopy tree which co-associates with *Coprosma acutifolia*, *Pseudopanax kermadecensis*, *Meliccytus* aff. *ramiflorus* and on occasion *Boehmeria australis* subsp. *dealbata*. Occasionally, such as on the ridge lines and crater rim it may form part of the forest canopy.

THREATS

Naturally Uncommon. A locally abundant tree of the wetter forest and ravine vegetation on Raoul. It is listed only because of its natural geographic restriction to a single island.

GENUS

Ascarina

FAMILY

Chloranthaceae

AUTHORITY

Ascarina lucida var. *lanceolata* (Hook.f.) Allan

SYNONYMS

Ascarina lanceolata Hook.f.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

July - December

FRUITING

January - August

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from cuttings and fresh seed but rather cold sensitive. In ideal conditions, and given time this variety can form a very large, spreading tree.

ETYMOLOGY

lucida: Shining

lanceolata: Lance-shaped

NVS CODE

ASCLVL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 26

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 January 2010. Description by P.J. de Lange based on cultivated plants, herbarium and fresh specimens.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ascarina-lucida-var-lanceolata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ascarina-lucida-var-lanceolata/>

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25 May 2026