Coprosma autumnalis

COMMON NAME
Kanono, manono, large-leaved coprosma, raurekau

FAMILY
Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY
Coprosma autumnalis Colenso

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

NVS CODE
COPAUT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Large shrub with pairs of thin wavy, mottled leaves. Leaves to 20cm long, oval, pointed, with small pits at junction of veins. Sharp dark point on stem between pairs of leaves. Fruit prange to red, on obvious stalks in open clusters.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. North to South Islands. In the South Island extending to Lake Ianthe in the west and the Marlborough Sounds in the east.

HABITAT
Common in the understorey of forest, and in sheltered shady sites from the coast to montane and cloud forest. In areas of high rainfall can be a major component of shrublands, and within regenerating forest. Often common along the margins of logging tracks and roads.
FEATURES
Shrub or small tree up to c. 6 m tall; plants much branched from base or with single trunk; branches and branchlets glabrous, smooth, under bark green. Interpetiolar stipules conspicuous, broadly deltoid, then tapering, apex with 2 prominent darkly pigmented denticles, glabrous. Leaves on smooth glabrous petioles 20-30 mm long; Lamina (100-)150-300 × (50-)70-100 mm, broadly elliptic to obovate, apex subacute or apiculate, base gradually narrowed to petiole; membranous to sub-coriaceous, adaxially dull glossy green or green mottled with maroon or purple, abaxially paler, margins flat or weakly undulose waved, rarely finely crenulate; venation prominent, reticulations conspicuous on both leaf surfaces, fine and close-set. Flowers in clusters on trichotomously branched peduncles up to 80 m. long. Male flowers with 4-5-toothed cupular calyx; corolla narrow-funnelform, lobes usually 5, acute, < tube; stamens us. 5. Female flowers usually with small stipulate bracts at axils of branches; calyx-teeth 5, small, acute; corolla tubular, lobes 5, narrow-triangular, acute, ± the same length as tube. Drupe reddish orange, oblong, 7-9 mm. long

SIMILAR TAXA
Easily distinguished by the very large, broad, yellow-green leaves which are variously mottled with dark green or purple, and have prominent leaf “drip-tips”, and by the very large, entirely glandular leaf stipules - seen otherwise only in the very different looking Coprosma waima. It also differs from all of the other similar large-leaved species by its usually autumnal flowering pattern.

FLOWERING
(March-) April (-June) but may also occasionally flower in September.

FLOWER COLOURS
Green, White

FRUITING
(September-) October-January (-April)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Very easy from fresh seed. Also easy from semi-hardwood cuttings. Prefers a shaded site in damp soil but will tolerate most garden situations.

ETYMOLOGY
coprosma: From the Greek kopros ‘dung’ and osme ‘smell’, referring to the foul smell of the species, literally ‘dung smell’
autumnalis: Autumn flowering

Taxonomic Notes
For at least the last 30 years this Coprosma was known in New Zealand by the name Coprosma grandifolia. Recently Large et al. (2020) have shown that Coprosma grandifolia is an superfluous name of Copucida J.R.Forst. et G.Forst. because it includes the type of Ronabea australis A. Rich. (Coprosma australis (A.Rich.) B.L.Rob.), necessitating the reinstatement of Coprosma autumnalis Colenso for the plant known to iwi as kanono.

ATTRIBUTION

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Large, M.F.; Mabberly, D.J.; Wood, E. 2020: Coprosma autumnalis (kanono; Rubiaceae) in New Zealand: nomenclature, iconography and phenology, Kew Bulletin 75: 37-43. DOI 10.1007/S12225-020-9876-4

CITATION
(Date website was queried)

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