

# Coprosma autumnalis

## COMMON NAME

kanono, manono, large-leaved coprosma, raurekau

## SYNONYMS

*Coprosma grandifolia*

## FAMILY

Rubiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Coprosma autumnalis* Colenso

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## 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 lanthe 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.



Maidstone Park, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Boulder Hill, Belmont Regional Park. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

## 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 *Cotucida* 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

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2005). Description adapted from Allan (1961).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Large, M.F.; Mabblerly, 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

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/coprosma-autumnalis/>