

Coprosma grandifolia

COMMON NAMES

kanono, manono, large-leaved coprosma, raurekau

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED 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 orange to red, on obvious stalks in open clusters.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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.

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.



Stipule. Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt.
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:
05/06/2006, Licence: CC BY.



Boulder Hill, Belmont Regional Park.
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:
02/07/2005, Licence: CC BY.

GENUS

Coprosma

FAMILY

Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY

Coprosma grandifolia Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

Coprosma autumnalis Colenso

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 a superfluous name of *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. Therefore the name *Coprosma autumnalis* Colenso with an unequivocal type was reinstated, and this view was accepted by the Spermatophyte Subcommittee of the ICN (Applequist 2023) until another vote was pushed to reject that name, reinstate *C. grandifolia* as a conserved name, with a new conserved type following the proposal of Perrie (2021). Unfortunately this view, narrowly accepted by the Spermatophyte subcommittee has been favoured. So *Coprosma grandifolia* is again in use for this plant.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

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

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.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

coprosma: From the Greek kopros 'dung' and osme 'smell', referring to the foul smell of the species, literally 'dung smell'

grandifolia: Big leaved

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to *Coprosma* species of New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

COPGRA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the ["Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland"](#) Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Applequist, W.L. 2023: Report of the Nomenclature Committee for Vascular Plants: 74. *Taxon* 72: 908–922.

<https://doi.org/10.1002.tax.12993> Applequist, W.L. 2023: Report of the Nomenclature Committee for Vascular Plants: 74. *Taxon* 72: 908–922. <https://doi.org/10.1002.tax.12993>

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

Perrie, L.R. 2021: Proposal to conserve the name *Coprosma grandifolia* (Rubiaceae) with a conserved type. *Taxon* 70(1): 211.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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