

Coriaria arborea var. kermadecensis

COMMON NAME

Kermadec tutu

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Coriariaceae

AUTHORITY

Coriaria arborea var. *kermadecensis* W.R.B.Oliv.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

NVS CODE

CORAVK

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Common robust much branched large shrub inhabiting disturbed areas on the Kermadec Islands. Twigs square in cross-section, bearing pairs of 45-55mm long glossy green oval leaves that do not have a leaf stalk. Flowers in drooping spikes up to 15cm long.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Kermadec Island group, Raoul Island only

HABITAT

Widespread in open seral habitats and disturbed ground.

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FRUITING

Throughout the year



Tutu. Photographer: Bec Stanley



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PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and suckers. Fast growing but cold sensitive. Plants are a much lighter green than *C. arborea* R.Linds. var. *arborea*.

THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a narrow range endemic abundant within its only known habitat.

ETYMOLOGY

coriaria: From the Latin *corium* 'hide', possibly from the use of some species for tanning leather

arborea: From the Latin *arbor* 'tree', meaning tree-like

kermadecensis: From the Kermadec Islands

POISONOUS PLANT

All *Coriaria* species are poisonous especially the seed inside the black berries. Click on this link for more information about [Poisonous native plants](#).

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

Very doubtfully distinct from *C. arborea* var. *arborea* - plants sourced from Raoul Island held in cultivation in New Zealand are virtually indistinguishable from var. *arborea* (they have a lighter green coloured leaf).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/coriaria-arborea-var-kermadecensis/>