

Elaeocarpus dentatus var. dentatus

COMMON NAME

hīnau

SYNONYMS

Dicera dentata J.R.Forst. et G.Forst., *Elaeocarpus hinau* A.Cunn.,
Elaeocarpus cunninghamii Raoul

FAMILY

Elaeocarpaceae

AUTHORITY

Elaeocarpus dentatus (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) Vahl var. *dentatus*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

ELADEN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 30

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Canopy tree bearing harsh thin leaves that have obvious pits on the underside and with small teeth along margins. Twigs with small hairs. Adult leaves 10-12cm long by 2-3cm wide, with a sharp tip, Juvenile leaves narrower. Flowers white, lacy, in conspicuous sprays. Fruit purple, oval, 12-15mm long.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, and South Island as far South Westland in the west and Christchurch in the east.

HABITAT

Common tree of mainly coastal and lowland forest though occasionally extending into montane forest.



Reikorangi Valley, Waikanae. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 12/03/1986, Licence: CC BY.



An image of hinaiu flowers. Photographer: Department of Conservation, Licence: Public domain.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree up to 20 m tall (usually less), with broad spreading crown. Trunk 1 m diam., bark grey. Branches erect then spreading, branchlets silky hairy when young. Petioles stout, 20-25 mm long. Leaves leathery, (50-)100-120 x 20-30 mm, narrow- to obovate-oblong, broad-obovate, oblanceolate, apex obtuse or abruptly acuminate, dark green and glabrescent above, off-white, silky-hairy below; margins somewhat sinuate, recurved, serrate to subentire. Inflorescence a raceme 100-180 mm long, 8-12(-20)-flowered. Pedicels 10 mm long, silky-hairy. Flowers drooping, (8-)12(-15) mm diam., sepals lanceolate-oblong, 6 mm long, petals white, obovate-cuneate, 3-5-lobed, c. 10 mm long. Stamens 10-20. Fruit a fleshy, ovoid purple-black 12-18 x 9 mm, drupe. Endocarp deeply furrowed and wrinkled.

SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive tree easily recognised by the erecto-patent leathery bicoloured leaves, white "lily of the valley" like flowers, and small ovoid purple-black drupes. Distinguished from the closely allied pokaka by the lack of a filiramate, divaricating juvenile and sub adult growth form, and larger leaves, flowers and fruits. The status of *Elaeocarpus dentatus* var. *obovatus* Cheeseman accepted by the New Zealand Flora, but not by Druce (1993) needs further investigation. In its typical form this variety seems very distinctive, and pending further study it is retained here, especially as no one has undertaken a modern revision of New Zealand *Elaeocarpus*.

FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

December - May(-June)

LIFE CYCLE

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh fruit - though can be slow to germinate. Moderately easy in most soils, light and moisture regimes. However, does best in a deep, moist, well mulched soil.

ETYMOLOGY

elaecarpus: Olive-seed

dentatus: Toothed

WHERE TO BUY

A beautiful tree which should be more widely grown. Makes an excellent specimen tree and should be more widely used in street plantings. Occasionally available from commercial and specialist native plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (4 April 2007). Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Druce, A.P. 1993: Indigenous vascular plants of New Zealand. Ninth Revision. Unpublished Checklist held at Landcare Research, Lincoln, New Zealand.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/elaecarpus-dentatus-var-dentatus/>