

# Elaeocarpus dentatus var. dentatus

## COMMON NAME

Hinau

## 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

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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. Mar 1986. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



An image of hinau flowers. Photographer: DoC

## FEATURES

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

## CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Elaeocarpus dentatus* var. *dentatus* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<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/>