

Hoheria angustifolia

COMMON NAME

Narrow-leaved Houhere

SYNONYMS

Hoheria populnea var. *angustifolia* (Raoul) Hook.f.

FAMILY

Malvaceae

AUTHORITY

Hoheria angustifolia Raoul

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

NVS CODE

HOHANG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tall soft-wooded grey-trunked tree bearing masses of narrow sharply-toothed leaves and small clusters of white flowers that develop into dry papery winged fruits. Leaves 20-48mm long by 5-10mm wide (juvenile leaves much shorter and rounder). Flowers in groups of 1-8, on stalks 10-12mm long.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands - mostly easterly from the Wairoa River Northland south to Southland. In the North Island scarce north of the Hawkes Bay, absent from Taranaki, Bay of Plenty and Auckland areas and from most of the Waikato. In the South Island absent from Westland and Fiordland.

HABITAT

A common mostly lowland forest species frequenting alluvial forest where it may at times be dominant. *Hoheria angustifolia* is often an important host for taapia (*Tupeia antarctica*).



At Carters bush, Carterton. January.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Hoheria angustifolia, Blue Duck Scenic Reserve.
Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft

FEATURES

Slender heteroblastic tree up to 18 m tall. Mature branches and branchlets ± glabrous; young branches and branchlets finely and densely covered in stellate-pubescence. Juvenile and sub-adults filiramate-divaricate, branchlets slender, pliant, ± interlacing. Leaves distant, fascicled, on very slender petioles, 1.0-2.3 mm long; lamina (2.0-)4.0(-8.4) × 4.0-7.5 mm, grey-green to dark green, broad-obovate to suborbicular, cuneately narrowed to base, dentate along upper margin. Adult leaves, less widely spaced, fascicled. petioles 4.8-5.3 mm long; lamina (including teeth) 20-48 × 5-10 mm; narrow, obovate, oblanceolate, oblong, lanceolate, apex obtuse to acute; margins coarsely spinulose dentate-serrate; teeth up to 4 mm long. The different leaf-forms may all occur on the same plant, often as reversion shoots on damaged mature trees. Flowers solitary or in 2-8-flowered cymose fascicles on very slender stellate-pubescent pedicels 10-12 mm long. Calyx densely pubescent, campanulate, 3.0-4.2 mm long, (3-)5-fid; teeth broad-triangular. Petals (5-)7(-9) mm long, white, obliquely narrow-oblong, notched. Stigma capitate. Anthers reniform. Carpels and styles 5. Mericarp semicircular, winged, main body 2.5-3.5 mm long, pale brown; wing 3.0-6.0 mm long, light-orange yellow, densely covered with stellate hairs near base. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2011).

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished from all other *Hoheria* species by the heteroblastic growth habit in which the filiramate-divaricating juvenile form is long persistent, being usually seen as reversion shoots on mature trees. The mature leaves of *Hoheria angustifolia* are also much narrowed and more deeply toothed than any other species. However, where the ranges of *Hoheria angustifolia* and *H. sexstylosa* overlap hybrids between both species are common (these have even been formally named as *H. populnea* var. *lanceolata* - a "variety" many New Zealand botanists seem to think equates with *H. sexstylosa* one of its parents! Another expression of this hybrid found occasionally in the Tararua Ranges, Eastern Wairarapa, South Wellington Coastline and in parts of the Marlborough Sounds has even been referred to as a "new species" *Hoheria "Tararua"*. These hybrids can be recognised by their shorter, broader canopy and variable leaf dimensions which are intermediate between both parents - unfortunately introgressive hybrid swarms are frequent, and at times the hybrid dominates where one or more parents have been eliminated. Detailed research into these hybrid swarms using modern molecular methods is sorely needed to determine the extent of gene-flow as well as to characterize the nature of this hybridism.

FLOWERING

December - February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

February - April

LIFE CYCLE

Winged mericarps are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Very fast growing and the diversity of foliage types exhibited by juvenile and adults can be very attractive. Due to its large size it is best for a big garden

THREATS

Not Threatened - though the northern North Island populations are small and few are on protected land

ETYMOLOGY

hoheria: Latin version of the Maori name houhere which refers to *H. populnea* and *H. glabrata*.

angustifolia: Narrow-leaved

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally sold by garden centres and commonly available from specialist native plant nurseries

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 3 April 2011. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2011).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Christchurch, Manuka Press.

Moorfield, J. C. (2005). Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hoheria-angustifolia/>