

Hoheria ovata

SYNONYMS

Hoheria sexstylosa var. *ovata* (G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson) Allan

FAMILY

Malvaceae

AUTHORITY

Hoheria ovata G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

HOHSVO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small soft-wooded tree bearing leathery toothed leaves and large white flowers that develop into a winged dry fruit inhabiting limestone areas in Northwest Nelson. Leaves 5-8cm long by 2-4cm wide, widest at base, network of darker veins visible underneath. Flowers white, with cluster of filaments in centre.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, on the west Coast only from North West Nelson to at least Greymouth

HABITAT

Lowland to montane. Often on calcareous rocks (marble, limestone, dolomite and calcareous sand, and siltstone), especially on cliff faces, talus slopes and rock outcrops. less commonly seen as a scarce component of disturbed riparian forest. Sometimes prominent on forest margins.



In cultivation ex Mount Burnett. Dec 2015.
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In cultivation ex Mount Burnett. Dec 2015.
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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Much branched, spreading tree up to 6 m tall, canopy often broadly domed; Mature branches and branchlets ± glabrous, purple-black; young growth and inflorescences ± densely stellate indumentum. Leaves on stout, pliant petioles up to 10 mm long; lamina of leaves of young plants 10-50 × 10-30 mm, coriaceous, adaxially dark green to grey-green, abaxially paler, broad-ovate to suborbicular, apex obtuse to acute, margins deeply, coarsely serrate-dentate; lamina of adults 50-80 × 20-40 mm, coriaceous, fleshy, ovate-lanceolate, ovate to broad-ovate, apex acute to acuminate, deeply, coarsely serrate-dentate. Flowers 20-30 mm diameter, solitary or in 3-6-flowered cymose fascicles, on firmly pliant, stellate-pubescent pedicels up to 40 mm long. Calyx densely stellate pubescent, campanulate, 4.2-5.8 mm long, (3-)5-fid; teeth narrow-triangular. Petals (10-)15(-18) mm long, white, oblong to broadly oblong, apex ± notched. Stigma capitate. Anthers reniform. Carpels and styles 5. Mericarp semicircular, winged, main body 4.3-6.0 mm long, brown; wing 3.2-7.0 mm long, light-orange yellow, base finely, ± densely covered with stellate hairs.

SIMILAR TAXA

Hoheria ovata resembles a smaller statured and flowered *Hoheria populnea*. It differs from most of the range of *Hoheria populnea* by its smaller, distinctly thicker leaves, and very much larger flowers, longer and earlier flowering season, and by the prominent stellate-pubescent on the young stems, pedicels, calyces and mericarps. *Hoheria ovata* closely resembles hybrids that have been raised between *H. populnea* and *H. sexstylosa* and it seems probable that this is its origin. However, neither putative parent now grows within the range of *Hoheria ovata* which forms a true-breeding, stable unit across a large part of North-West Nelson and northern Westland. Further research into this species relationship to *Hoheria populnea* and *H. sexstylosa* is needed, perhaps using modern molecular methods.

FLOWERING

December - March

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

February - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Somewhat slower growing than *H. populnea* or *H. sexstylosa*, and taking longer to flower. However, the small stature, smaller, rather thick, leathery leaves, very large flowers and long flowering time make this a very attractive species which deserves to be more widely grown.

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 3 April 2011. Description based on herbarium specimens and live plants grown (Mt Burnett origin) by P.J. de Lange (3 April 2011) supplemented by information obtained from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2011).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

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

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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