# Hoheria ovata

## BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

## CATEGORY
Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED 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.

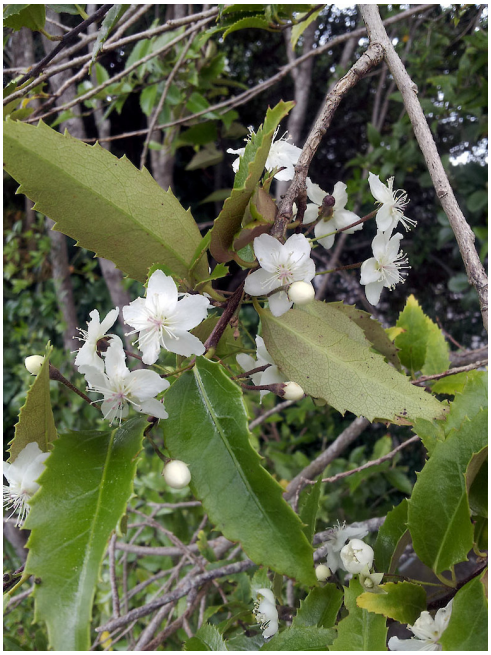
## FLOWER COLOURS
White

## 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-pubescence 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.



In cultivation ex Mount Burnett. Dec 2015. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



In cultivation ex Mount Burnett. Dec 2015. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## 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.

## GENUS
Hoheria

## FAMILY
Malvaceae

## AUTHORITY
Hoheria ovata G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson

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

## ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS
Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

## FLOWERING
December - March

## 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.

## WHERE TO BUY
Not commercially available.

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

## NVS CODE
HOHOVA

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 42

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

## 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.

## 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).
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## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026