

Macrolearia colensoi

COMMON NAMES

tupare, leatherwood

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy leathery shrub in places forming impenetrable thickets in subalpine areas or sea level in far south. Leaves rounded, 8-20cm long by 3-6cm wide, nearly as wide as long, with a soft fuzzy white undersurface. Flowers small, purple, arranged in a spike to 20cm long.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island (eastern and southern axial ranges), Marlborough Sound (Mt Stokes), otherwise western South Island, Rakiura / Stewart Island and some of the adjacent smaller islands.

GENUS

Macrolearia

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Macrolearia colensoi (Hook.f.) Saldivia

SYNONYMS

Olearia colensoi Hook.f., *Olearia colensoi* Hook.f. var. *colensoi*, *Olearia colensoi* Hook.f. var. *argentea* Allan.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Olearia colensoi var. *argentea* recognised by Allan (1961) and accepted following recircumscription by Wardle et al. (1971) is treated as part of the natural variation within *Macrolearia colensoi* by Saldivia et al. (2022).

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No



Ulva Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 01/01/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



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ETYMOLOGY

colensoi: Named after William Colenso (7 November 1811 - 10 February 1899) who was a Cornish Christian missionary to New Zealand, and also a printer, botanist, explorer and politician.

NVS CODE

MACCOL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Saldivia, P.; Wagstaff, S.J.; Breitwieser, I.; Orlovich, D.A.; Lord, J.M. 2022: A Generic Taxonomic Synopsis of the *Pleurophyllum* Clade (Asteraceae: Astereae: Celmisiinae) with the Recognition of the New Zealand Endemic New Genus *Macrolearia*. *Systematic Botany* 47: 607–634.

Wardle, P.; Field, T.R.O.; Spain, A.V. 1971: Biological Flora of New Zealand 5. *Olearia colensoi* Hook.f. (Compositae) Leatherwood, Tupari. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 9: 186–214.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/macrolearia-colensoi/>

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25 May 2026