

Melaleuca linearis

COMMON NAMES

bottlebrush

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small to medium shrub. Young shoots covered with silky hairs. Leaves up to 11 cm × 4 mm, narrow linear, bearing numerous small dots, vein forming rigid margins. Deep red flowers in spikes.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from widely cultivated *Melaleuca citrina* by the narrower leaves and the veins forming ridges.

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

THREATS

This taxon may be prone to myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is an invasive fungus that threatens myrtle species. Learn more: myrtlerust.org.nz.

GENUS

Melaleuca

FAMILY

Myrtaceae

AUTHORITY

Melaleuca linearis Schrad. & J.C.Wendl.

SYNONYMS

Callistemon rigidus R.Br.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

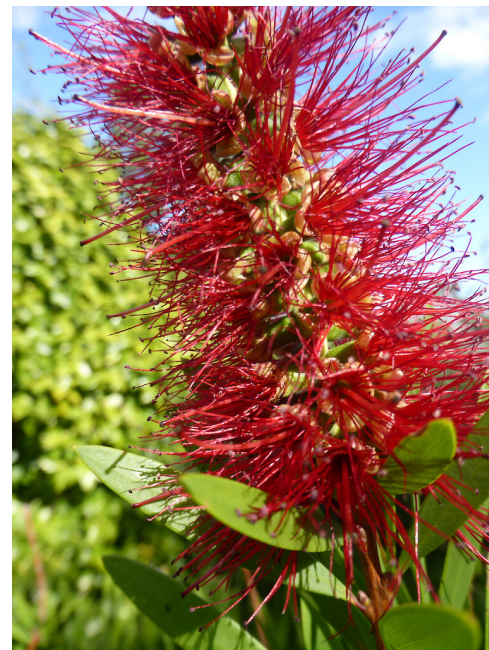
October, November, December, January, February

YEAR NATURALISED

1982

ORIGIN

Australia: NSW.



Ex-nursery plant, planted in a garden on St John's Hill, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 03/04/2020, Licence: Public domain.



Ex-nursery plant, planted in a garden on St John's Hill, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 03/04/2020, Licence: Public domain.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

ETYMOLOGY

linearis: Linear (leaves)

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the Myrtaceae of New Zealand

NVS CODE

MELLIN

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/melaleuca-linearis/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026