

Melicytus lanceolatus

COMMON NAMES

māhoe-wao, narrow-leaved māhoe

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 bushy tree bearing many down-curving narrow tough leaves inhabiting higher rainfall areas. Leaves 5-16cm long by 0.5-2cm wide, on a short stem. Flowers are small with yellow or dark purple petals and scattered in groups along the twig. Fruit purple.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

GENUS

Melicytus

FAMILY

Violaceae

AUTHORITY

Melicytus lanceolatus Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

Melicytus lanceolatus Hook.f. var. *lanceolatus*, *Melicytus lanceolatus* var. *latior* G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ETYMOLOGY

melicytus: From the Greek meli (honey) and kytos (hollow container), referring to the staminal nectaries of the flowers. Literally “honey-cave”

lanceolatus: Shaped like a small lance head

NVS CODE

MELLAN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32



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PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT, NR, RR Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: TL Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/melicytus-lanceolatus/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026