

# Melicytus macrophyllus

## COMMON NAME

large-leaved māhoe

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Violaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Melicytus macrophyllus* A.Cunn.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

MELMAC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small bushy tree bearing many leathery oval leaves that have a few bumps on the margin inhabiting Northland and Auckland. Leaves 7-14cm long by 4-10cm wide, central vein green, vein network more visible on the underside. Flowers small, yellowish, scattered in groups along twig. Fruit purple.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island from near Kaitia south the the Waitakere Ranges in the west and Mt William (near Bombay) in the east. Reports of the species from near Dunedin are based on mislabelled herbarium specimens

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh and semi-hardwood cuttings. An attractive shrub to small-tree which is tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions and light levels. Does best when planted under taller trees.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**macrophyllus:** Big leaf



*Melicytus macrophyllus* showing new growth, Ex Cult. Waitakere Ranges, November 2005. Photographer: Peter de Lange



*Melicytus macrophyllus* showing new growth, Ex Cult. Waitakere Ranges, November 2005. Photographer: Peter de Lange

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Melicytus macrophyllus* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/melicytus-macrophyllus/> (Date website was queried)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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