

# Melicytus macrophyllus

## COMMON NAMES

large-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 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 Kaitaia 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

## GENUS

Melicytus

## FAMILY

Violaceae

## AUTHORITY

Melicytus macrophyllus A.Cunn.

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## 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 J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Melicytus macrophyllus showing new growth, Ex Cult. Waitakere Ranges, November 2005. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## NVS CODE

MELMAC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

## 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 At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NR 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.

## 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/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026