

Melicytus novae-zelandiae subsp. novae-zelandiae

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub bearing leathery wavy-edged dark green leaves that have the vein network more visible on the underside forming a dense scrub in coastal areas of the North Island. Leaves 3–9cm long by 2–5cm wide, paler underneath. Flowers yellowish, scattered along stem. Fruit white with purple blotches.

GENUS

Melicytus

FAMILY

Violaceae

AUTHORITY

Melicytus novae-zelandiae (A.Cunn.) P.S.Green

SYNONYMS

Scaevola novae-zelandiae A.Cunn., *Hymenanthera novae-zelandiae* (A.Cunn.) Hemsl., *Hymenanthera latifolia* Kirk, *Hymenanthera latifolia* Kirk var. *latifolia*, *Hymenanthera latifolia* var. *tasmanica* Kirk,

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”

novae-zelandiae: Of New Zealand

NVS CODE

MELNSN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32



Coromandel, October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Tuhua Is, Coromandel, April. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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 Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, PF, Rel 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.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/melicytus-novae-zelandiae-subsp-novae-zelandiae/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026