# Metrosideros diffusa

## COMMON NAMES
white rātā

## BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

## CATEGORY
Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS
Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

## FLOWER COLOURS
Red/Pink, White

## DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura.

## THREATS
Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is an invasive fungus that threatens native myrtle species. Learn more myrtlerust.org.nz.

## GENUS
Metrosideros

## FAMILY
Myrtaceae

## AUTHORITY
Metrosideros diffusa (G.Forst.) Sm.

## SYNONYMS
Melaleuca diffusa G.Forst., Metrosideros hypericifolia A.Cunn.

## ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS
No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FACU: Facultative Upland
Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY
**metrosideros**: Iron heart
**diffusa**: Of spreading growth

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to the Myrtaceae of New Zealand

## NVS CODE
METDIF

Okarito River. Dec 1982. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 16/12/1982, Licence: CC BY.

Blue duck S.R. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 22

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, De
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: DPT 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: De 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/metrosideros-diffusa/

## PDF DATE
27 May 2026