

# Mida salicifolia

## COMMON NAMES

maire

## 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

Small tree bearing a variety of shapes of dark green glossy leaves (that are sometimes in pairs) paler underneath with small dots inhabiting the North Island. Leaves narrow and thin or rounded, to 12cm long. Flowers small. Fruit red, in small clusters at base of leaves.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small hemiparasitic, glabrescent to glabrous tree up to 6 m tall. **Bark** smooth, grey to grey-black, branchlets slender, brittle. **Petioles** slender, short, somewhat fleshy. **Leaves** mostly alternate, sometimes with a few subopposite to opposite, (50)–100–(120) × (10)–20–30–(40) mm, upper surface dark green to yellow green, very glossy, undersides paler and mat, lamina variable in shape ranging from linear, narrow-lanceolate, ovate to oblong-ovate, broad-elliptic to rhomboid, with all types occasionally present on the same individual, acute, subacuminate to acuminate, somewhat papery, membranous or semi-coriaceous, margins entire, sinuate or distinctly “scalloped”. **Inflorescence** and axillary, few-flowered raceme. **Pedicels** c. 5 mm. **Flowers** gynodioecious, greenish, pink or red. **Tepals** (4)–5–(6), broadly triangular, caducous. **Stamens** (4)–5–(6), subtended by small hair tufts. **Disc** (4)–5–(6)-lobed. **Stigma** 2–4-lobed. **Fruit** 7–12 × 6–8 mm, narrow-turbinate, bright red, receptacle rim persistent. Description adapted from Allan (1961).

## SIMILAR TAXA

Most commonly confused in the vegetative state with species of maire (*Nestegis*) from which it can be distinguished because *Nestegis* spp. have leaves that are always opposite, not distichous and have finely spotted leaf surfaces (caused by glandular leaf hairs). In *Nestegis* spp. there are always short hairs on the young growth and the vegetative buds (which are usually two) are pointed and distinctly maroon-coloured.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island from North Cape to Wellington but scarce south of the Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

## HABITAT

Coastal to lowland forest. Often in association with kauri (*Agathis australis*) but also common in other mixed Podocarp forests. A generalist root parasite.



Long Bay Reserve, Coromandel (August).  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Te Arai Scenic Reserve, Northland.  
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## THREATS

Threatened by possum, goat and deer browse, and in some places almost extinct from the actions of these animals. However it is also extremely common over large parts of its range, though most abundant on possum-free islands or sites with rigorous possum control.

## GENUS

Mida

## FAMILY

Nanodeaceae

## AUTHORITY

Mida salicifolia A.Cunn.

## SYNONYMS

Mida cunninghamii Chatin, M. myrtifolia A. Cunn., M. salicifolia var. myrtifolia (A.Cunn.) Allan, M. eucalyptoides A.Cunn. Fusanus cunninghamii Benth. et Hook.f. ex Kirk,

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

*Mida* and *Nanodea* have been segregated from the Santalaceae to form a new family the Nanodeaceae (Nickrent et al. 2010).

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

September–November

## FRUITING

October–February

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult and should not be removed from the wild.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for June 2009](#) for the full story.

## ETYMOLOGY

**mida**: From maire, the Maori name for this species

**salicifolia**: From the Latin Salix 'willow' and -folia 'leaf', meaning 'willow-leaved'

## NVS CODE

MIDSAL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 66

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: RF

2004 | Gradual Decline

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: CD, DPR, DPS, DPT, PF, RF 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.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.
- Gardner RO. 1997. *Mida salicifolia* our native sandalwood. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 52: 42–43.
- Nickrent DL, Malecot V, Vidal-Russell R, Der JP. 2010. A revised classification of the Santalales. *Taxon* 59(2): 538–558. <https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.592019>.
- Moorfield JC. 2005. Te Aka : Māori-English, English-Māori dictionary and index. Longman/Pearson Education, Auckland, NZ. 357 p.

## ATTRIBUTION

Prepared by P.J. de Lange April 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961).  
Some of this factsheet information is derived from Flora of New Zealand Online and is used under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/mida-salicifolia/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026