

# Mida salicifolia

## COMMON NAME

maire

## 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,

## FAMILY

Nanodeaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Mida salicifolia* A.Cunn.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

MIDSAL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 66

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Declining

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: RF

2004 | Gradual Decline

## BRIEF 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

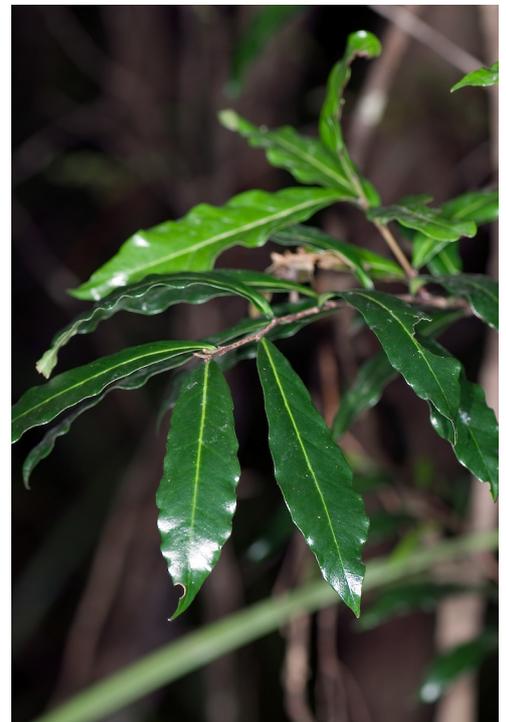
Endemic. New Zealand: North Island from North Cape to Wellington but scarce south of the Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

## 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



Te Arai Scenic Reserve, Northland.  
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

## FEATURES

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) x (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. Flowers gynodioecious. Pedicels c. 5 mm. Flowers 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 x 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.

## FLOWERING

September - November

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

## FRUITING

October - February

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult and should not be removed from the wild.

## 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, and though perhaps most abundant on possum-free islands.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

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

## TAXANOMIC NOTES

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

## ATTRIBUTION

Prepared by P.J. de Lange April 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Wellington, Government Printer.

Gardner, R.O. 1997. *Mida salicifolia* our native sandalwood. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 52: 42-43.

Nickrent, D.L.; Malecot, V.; Vidal-Russell, R.; Der, J.P. 2010: A revised classification of the Santalales. *Taxon* 59: 538-558.

Moorfield, J. C. (2005). *Te aka* : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Mida salicifolia* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/mida-salicifolia/> (Date website was queried)

**MORE INFORMATION**

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