

Muellerina celastroides

COMMON NAMES

Muellerina

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Green shrub growing on other plants known from one locality in pohutukawa forest in the Bay of Islands. No plants currently known in New Zealand. Leaves in pairs, rounded oval, 25-70mm long. Flowers tubular, drooping, pale green on outside, dark red on inside. Fruit 7-11mm long, pear-shaped.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Hemiparasite of outer host branches and rarely main trunk. Haustoris external, epicortical runners present. Growth habit erect or spreading, all parts glabrous except the minutely brown puberulent inflorescence axis. Leaves opposite, 25-70 x 15-25 mm, bright green, yellow-green to dark green, elliptic to oblong, round or obtuse, base attenuate with obscure 3-8 mm long petiole; midrib indistinct, venation indistinct, pinnate. Inflorescence a terminal raceme of 1-3 pairs of triads, triad with central flower sessile and laterals pedicellate; axis 5-20 mm long; triad peduncles 5-7 mm long, pedicels of lateral flowers 3-6 mm long, bracts narrowly triangular, 1.5-2 mm long. Calyx 0.7-1 mm entire. Corolla 5-merous, curved in bud with mature buds 22-35 mm long, yellow-green to pale yellow at anthesis often fading to red or reddish-purple, petals free, distinctly decurved to pendulous. Stamens unequal; anthers 1.5 mm long, dorsifixed, versatile, yellow, free portion of filament 8-13 mm long, often dark red or pink. Fruit 7-11 mm, green grading to light red at ends, pear-shaped.

SIMILAR TAXA

None in New Zealand. The distinctive decurved, greenish-yellow flowers which fade to red or reddish-purple after anthesis, set in triads with the central flower sessile and the laterals pedicellate, and the distinctive pear-shaped fruits readily distinguish this species from the other loranthaceous taxa found in New Zealand.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Reported in New Zealand once from the Bay of Islands. Present also in eastern Australia (Queensland and New South Wales) where it is abundant

HABITAT

In New Zealand collected once from coastal Pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa* Sol. ex Gaertn.) dominated forest. In Australia more widespread but usually coastal on trees growing along waterways or in coastal forest.

THREATS

Unknown. This species was collected once parasitic on pohutukawa and not seen again. In Australia the usual host of *Banksia integrifolia* L.f.. Possibly it became extinct in New Zealand due to the suboptimal host range available. Possums were not responsible as they had yet to be liberated in the country.

GENUS

Muellerina



Coffs Harbour, Australia, 1999. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FAMILY

Loranthaceae

AUTHORITY

Muellerina celastroides (Schult.f. et J.H.Schult.bis) Tiegh.

SYNONYMS

Muellerina raouli Tiegh., Phrygilanthus raoulii (Tiegh.) Engl.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Phrygilanthus tenuiflorus (Hook.f.) Engl. (Hookerella tenuiflorua Hook.f.) Tiegh and Loranthus tenuiflorus Hook.f. are names based on an early gathering of Peraxilla tetrapetala (L.f.) Tiegh.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

September - January

FRUITING

December - June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown.

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

2009 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant

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ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/muellerina-celastroides/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/muellerina-celastroides/>

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