Myoporum rapense subsp. kermadecense

COMMON NAME
Kermadec ngaio

SYNONYMS
Myoporum kermadecense Sykes

FAMILY
Scrophulariaceae

AUTHORITY
Myoporum rapense subsp. kermadecense (W.R.Sykes) Chinnock

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE
2004 | Range Restricted

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Spreading small tree bearing glossy dark green narrow toothed leaves inhabiting the Kermadec Islands. New growth very glossy, dark and sticky. Leaves to 25mm wide, tapering to a point. Flowers white with purple spots, at base of leaves. Fruit pink, on a stalk.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. Kermadec Islands (the Meyers, Chanter, Raoul, Macauley, Cheeseman and Hazard Islands).

HABITAT
A common and often dominant species of rock stacks and coastal scrub. Sometimes forming a dense forest. On the Raoul Island it is a common component of coastal forest both as a canopy dominant and as an understorey species.
FEATURES
Low spreading shrub to slender tree up to c.13 m high, habit dense or open with foliage clustered towards ends of shoots, glabrous except for the corolla and style, bark rough and furrowed in older plants. Shoots purple when young, with viscid, purple-black, rarely green, buds. Leaves on reproductive shoots, subsessile or with petiole to 10 mm long. Lamina (30-)35-80(-100) x (7-) l0-25(-40) mm, usually narrow elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate, sometimes in exposed situations elliptic or elliptic-obovate, submembranous to rather succulent, glands scarcely visible, margins serrulate (except towards base), sometimes obscurely so, very rarely entire, base attenuate, apex short to long acuminate. Leaves on juvenile and vegetative shoots often larger (to 170 x 50 mm), more strongly toothed and juvenile ones may have evident glands. Flowers in fascicles of 2–5, sometimes solitary. Pedicels 10-14 mm long at anthesis, to 18 mm long in fruit, slender, angular. Calyx lobed to near base; segments 5, 2.7–3.5 mm long in flower, narrow lanceolate to narrow triangular, occasionally ovate-lanceolate, entire, glabrous or less commonly ciliolate, acuminate, accrescent and 3–5 mm long in fruit. Corolla 11–15 mm diameter, (4)-5-lobed, white with purple dots (very rarely dots absent), bearded inside; corolla tube 4–7 mm long, lobes 4–7 x 3–5 mm, oblong or elliptic-oblong, pellucid glands present; apex rounded. Filaments 5–8 mm long; anthers exserted, 1.3–1.5 mm long, reniform. Style 4–5(–6) mm long, hairy. Fruit 5–8–(10) mm long, broad oblong to ovoid, mauve, occasionally white, smooth.

SIMILAR TAXA
Differs from M. laetum by the narrow elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate rather than narrow to broad elliptic or obovate leaves that are 10–25 mm wide (cf. 15–45 mm in M. laetum); short to long acuminate rather than acute, mucronate, or shortly acuminate leaf apices; inconspicuous, small lamina glands; narrow triangular to narrow lanceolate, rather than lanceolate to ovate calyx lobes and broad oblong to ovoid rather than broad oblong, narrow to broadly ovoid fruits.

FLOWERING
Present throughout the year

FLOWER COLOURS
Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING
Present throughout the year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown from fresh seed and by semi-hardwood cuttings. Very fast growing and excellent for a dry, sunny situation or as a hedge plant. Cold sensitive. Will hybridise with M. laetum or M. aff. insulare.

THREATS
Not threatened. Listed because it is a locally endemic naturally confined to the large islands of the Kermadec Islands group

ETYMOLOGY
myoporum: Shut pore

ATTRIBUTION
Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (20 August 2009). Description from Sykes (1987) but see also Chinnock (2007).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION
Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Myoporum rapense subsp. kermadecense Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myoporum-rapense-subsp-kermadecense/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION