

# Nestegis lanceolata

## COMMON NAME

White maire

## SYNONYMS

*Olea lanceolata* Hook.f.; *Gymnelaea lanceolata* (Hook.f.) L.A.S.Johnson

## FAMILY

Oleaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Nestegis lanceolata* (Hook.f.) L.A.S.Johnson

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

NESLAN

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 46

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tree bearing pairs of dark green narrow smooth leaves that are pale green underneath. Leaves 5-9cm long by 1-2.5cm wide. Fruit red, 8-11mm long, containing a single seed.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. Widespread and common in the North Island except in the southern part of range (Horowhenua, southern Wairarapa and Wellington areas). Very uncommon in the South Island where it is locally present in the Marlborough Sounds, reaching its southern limit along the Tuamarina River.

## HABITAT

Widespread in coastal to montane forest. Commonly found on steep hill slopes and ridge lines but also can be locally common in riparian forest. As a rule white maire tends to avoid frost-prone habitats and sites that frequently flood. In the northern part of its range it is often found with narrow-leaved maire (*Nestegis montana*) and black maire (*Nestegis cunninghamii*). In some parts of eastern Northland it is also found in coastal forest with *Nestegis apetala*.



Close up of fruits, Te Moehau (March).  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Adult foliage, Waitakere Ranges. Photographer:  
Peter de Lange

## FEATURES

Stout gynodioecious spreading tree up to 20 m tall usually forming a domed canopy; trunk up to c. 1 m diameter; often with several arising from base, these usually straight to somewhat arching, bark firm (not flaking), grey-brown to dark brown, tessellated. Branches slender, upright to spreading; branchlets glabrescent. Leaves glabrous, coriaceous, dark green above and ± glossy, paler beneath, margins plane (rarely weakly undulating), entire with weakly impressed to slightly raised midrib (side veins not evident when leaf fresh); borne on flexible but stout petioles 5-10 mm long; lamina of juveniles 100-400 × 4-10 mm, narrowly linear to linear, apex acute sometimes acuminate; adults lamina 40-80(-100) × 10-30 mm, narrow-ovate, ovate-lanceolate to narrow-elliptic, apex acute to subacuminate, base cuneately narrowed or attenuate; midrib ± raised to weakly impressed above, somewhat prominent below. Inflorescence a 5-10(-14)-flowered raceme, 10-20 mm long; rachis and pedicels glabrous or minutely puberulent. Male flowers with 2(-4) exerted anthers > 2 mm long, ovary usually rudimentary (occasionally functional); female flowers with large 2-lobed stigma and more deeply lobed calyx, anthers if present rudimentary. Drupe 10-18 mm long, oblong-ovoid to ovoid, flesh pink, red, pinkish-red or orange; endocarp 6.0-15 × 3.5-9.5 mm, dull, pale orange-yellow, oblong, sometimes ovate or narrowly oblong-elliptic. Seed purple-brown. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *Nestegis apetala* by its linear juvenile leaves, and much narrower adult leaves. From *Nestegis cunninghamii* it differs by the non-bullate leaves whose side-veins are not conspicuous, and whose midrib is scarcely impressed above. Distinguishing juvenile *Nestegis lanceolata* from *N. montana* is extremely difficult but the leaves of the adults serve to separate them, those of *N. montana* are 35-90 × 6-9 mm, linear; those of *N. lanceolata* 40-80(-100) × 10-30 mm. The drupes of *N. montana* are up to 12 mm long those of *N. lanceolata* 18mm long. Similarly juvenile black maire and white maire can look very similar, however, the upper leaf surface of black maire juveniles is dull while those of white maire are glossy. The adult branchlets of white maire tend to be glabrous or minutely and sparsely puberulent whilst those of black maire are distinctly pubescent.

## FLOWERING

November - January

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

## FRUITING

December - February

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. Difficult from cuttings. White maire deserves to be more widely grown as it makes an excellent specimen or street tree and once established is remarkably drought tolerant. The fruit is avidly eaten by many birds especially kereru (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*).

## ETYMOLOGY

**lanceolata**: Lance-shaped

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 9 February 2011. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Christchurch, Manuka Press.

## CITATION

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**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/nestegis-lanceolata/>