

Ochna serrulata

COMMON NAMES

Mickey Mouse plant

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Hardy shrub to three metres. Green elliptic, sharply serrulate leaves to 65mm. Small yellow flowers. Round black fruit attractively displayed on red sepals. (T. McCluggage pers com.)

HABITAT

Terrestrial. An urban weed of gardens and derelict building sites (Heenan et al 1999). Understorey and edge of forest. Also grown as an ornamental shrub. (T. McCluggage pers com.)

GENUS

Ochna

FAMILY

Ochnaceae

AUTHORITY

Ochna serrulata (Hochst.) Walp.

FLOWERING

September, October, November, December, January, February, March

FRUITING

autumn

YEAR NATURALISED

1997

ORIGIN

South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Prefers semi shade of the understorey of forests where it forms a dense monoculture that prevents regeneration of native species. It tolerates wet soil but also withstands droughts. (T. McCluggage pers com.)

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Has a deep tap root which makes it almost impossible to remove manually. (T. McCluggage pers com.). Reproduces by seeds. Propagated by semi ripe cuttings. Probably bird-dispersed (Heenan et al 1999) Seeds spread by birds, water, gravity. (T. McCluggage pers com.)



Fruit. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Oct 2006. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

serrulata: Rough edged

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

NVS CODE

OCHSER

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ochna-serrulata/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026