

# Syzygium smithii

## COMMON NAME

Lilly pilly, monkey apple

## SYNONYMS

*Acmena smithii*, *Eugenia smithii*

## FAMILY

Myrtaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Syzygium smithii* (Poir.) Nied.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

## NVS CODE

SYZSMI

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not assessed

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## FEATURES

Tree (6-15 m high in cultivation). Lvs very aromatic when crushed; petiole usually c. 5mm long. Lamina 4-12-(15) x 2-5-(8) cm, ovate or elliptic-ovate, coriaceous, glossy above, dotted with glands below; veins parallel and prominent below; base cuneate or narrow-cuneate; apex obtusely cuspidate or acuminate. Fls shortly pedicellate. Hypanthium (including pseudopedicel) 3-5 mm long; calyx lobes 4, deciduous. Petals 4, c. 2mm long, forming a small calyptrum, whitish. Stamens to c.3mm long whitish. Fr. subglobose to broad-oblong or obovoid, often slightly flattened, usually 1-1.7-(3) cm diam., pinkish mauve or white, with apical cavity. Seed large. (Webb et. al. 1988).

## SIMILAR TAXA

Tree (6-15m high in cultivation); leaves very aromatic when crushed, 4-12cm long x 2-5cm wide, glossy above, dotted with glands below, veins parallel and prominent below; petals whitish, about 2mm long; fruit broad-oblong or ovoid, often slightly flattened, usually 1-1.7cm diameter, pinkish mauve or white; large seed (Webb et al., 1988).

## FLOWERING

October, November, December, January

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

## YEAR NATURALISED

1982

## ORIGIN

E. Australia - was, until recently, known as *Acmena smithii*

## ETYMOLOGY

**syzygium**: From the Greek *syzygos* 'joined', referring to the paired leaves

**smithii**: James Edward Smith (1757-1858), who gave it the illegitimate homonymous name *Eugenia elliptica*



*Syzygium smithii*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



*Syzygium smithii*. Photographer: Richard Hursthouse

### **REASON FOR INTRODUCTION**

Ornamental.

### **LIFE CYCLE COMMENTS**

Perennial. Long-lived plant.

### **DISPERSAL**

Birds, dispersed by kereru from townships, farms and orchard hedges (DoC, 1996).

### **TOLERANCES**

Able to establish in existing forest under low light conditions (DoC, 1996)

### **REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**

Gardner, R. 2009. Monkey-apples: the fruit and seed of two *Syzygium* spp. (Myrtaceae). Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 64(1): 75-76

[Syzygium smithii - Wikipedia](#)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/syzygium-smithii/>