

# Paratrophis smithii

## COMMON NAMES

Three Kings milk tree

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Multi-trunked small tree with speckled dark bark bearing large dark green wavy leaves on zig-zagged stems inhabiting the Three Kings Islands. Leaves 10-20cm long. Flowers small in often curved spikes originating from the twigs and branches. Fruit red, 8-9mm wide.

## GENUS

Paratrophis

## FAMILY

Moraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Paratrophis smithii* Cheeseman

## SYNONYMS

*Streblus smithii* (Cheeseman) Corner

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## EXTRA INFORMATION

Named in honour of Stephenson Percy Smith (1840-1922), New Zealand surveyor who accompanied Thomas Cheeseman when he visited the Three Kings Island group in August 1887. For further information read Val Smith's biography in [The New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter](#) (issue 104)

## TAXONOMY

Long known to New Zealanders as *Paratrophis* most of the New Zealand species were transferred to *Streblus* by Corner (1962), with the full transfer completed by Webb (in Connor & Edgar 1987). However, a recent comprehensive study by Gardner et al. (2021) reinstated *Paratrophis* as distinct from a recircumscribed *Streblus*. This decision, followed worldwide is accepted here as well.

## ETYMOLOGY

**smithii**: After the British botanist John Smith (1798-1888) or Stephenson Percy Smith (1840-1922).

## NVS CODE

STRSMI



Cultivated (October). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cultivated (October). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Corner, E.J.H. 1962: The classification of Moraceae. Garden Bulletin of Singapore 19: 187–252

Connor, H.E.; Edgar, E. 1987: Name changes in the indigenous New Zealand flora, 1960–1986 and Nomina Nova IV, 1983–1986. New Zealand Journal of Botany 25: 115–170.

Gardner, E.M.; Garner, M.; Cowan, R.; Dodsworth, S.; Epiawalage, N.; Arifiani, D.; Sahromi; Baker, W.J.; Forest, F.; Maurin, O.; Zerega, N.J.C.; Monro, A.K.; Hipp, A.L. 2021: Repeated Parallel Losses of Inflexed Stamens in Moraceae: Phylogenomics and Generic Revision of the Tribe Moreae and the Reinstatement of the Tribe Olmedieae (Moraceae). *Taxon* 70: 946–88.

May, V. 1988. *Streblus (paratrophis) smithii* an assisted immigrant. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 43: 65-67

May, V. 1997. *Streblus smithii (Paratrophis smithii)*. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 52: 64-65.

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026