

Pittosporum ralphii

COMMON NAME

karo

FAMILY

Pittosporaceae

AUTHORITY

Pittosporum ralphii Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PITRAL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tree bearing greyish-green wavy leaves and bunches of dark red flowers and 1.5cm wide fruit that splits into three to show the black sticky seeds inhabiting the eastern North Island and to Wanganui. New growth covered in whiteish fuzz. Leaves 7.5-12.5cm long.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

ETYMOLOGY

pittosporum: Pitch seed

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

The name *P. ralphii* Kirk seems to be a later synonym for *P. crassifolium* Banks et Sol. ex A.Cunn. If correct this means that the plant described here is apparently without a valid name. Further research into this matter is needed.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pittosporum-ralphii/>



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