

Melaleuca linearis

COMMON NAME

bottlebrush

SYNONYMS

Callistemon rigidus R.Br.

FAMILY

Myrtaceae

AUTHORITY

Melaleuca linearis Schrad. & J.C.Wendl.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

CALRIG

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small to medium shrub. Young shoots covered with silky hairs. Leaves up to 11 cm × 4 mm, narrow linear, bearing numerous small dots, vein forming rigid margins. Deep red flowers in spikes.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to the Myrtaceae of New Zealand](#)

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from widely cultivated *Melaleuca citrina* by the narrower leaves and the veins forming ridges.

FLOWERING

October, November, December, January, February

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

THREATS

This taxon may be prone to myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is an invasive fungus that threatens myrtle species. Learn more: myrtlerust.org.nz.

YEAR NATURALISED

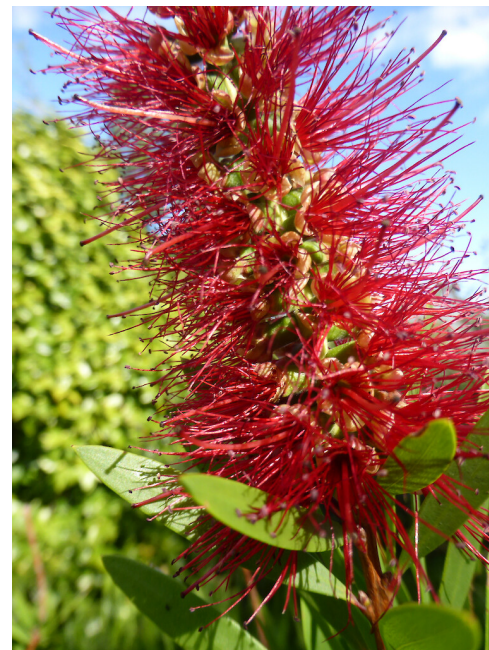
1982

ORIGIN

Australia: NSW.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



Ex-nursery plant, planted in a garden on St John's Hill, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 03/04/2020, Licence: Public domain.



Ex-nursery plant, planted in a garden on St John's Hill, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 03/04/2020, Licence: Public domain.

ETYMOLOGY

linearis: Linear (leaves)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/melaleuca-linearis/>