



Upper Clutha riparian - upper bank species



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Made on the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network website: www.nzpcn.org.nz

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INTRODUCTION

This book was compiled from information stored on the website of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (www.nzpcn.org.nz).

This website was established in 2003 as a repository for information about New Zealand's threatened vascular plants. Since then it has grown into a national database of information about all plants in the New Zealand botanic region including both native and naturalised vascular plants as well as non-vascular plants and fungi.

Funding to develop the website was provided by the New Zealand Government's Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System Programme (TFBIS). The website is run by a team of volunteers and is continually improving in both the richness of content and the range of functions it offers.

The species information used on the website has come from a variety of sources which are cited at the bottom of a species page.

Where no published treatment was available Peter used herbarium specimens and his own knowledge of the flora to prepare species pages. Various other contributors have provided text and additional information to many species pages including botanists such as John Barkla, Cathy Jones, Simon Walls, Nick Singers, Mike Thorsen and many others. The threatened fungi text was written by Eric Mackenzie and Peter Buchanan (Landcare Research) and aquatic plant information was supplied by Paul Champion from NIWA. Colin Ogle has contributed to the exotic species fact sheets.

More than 200 photographers have kindly provided images to illustrate the website and for use in this book especially John Smith-Dodsworth, Jeremy Rolfe, Peter de Lange, Wayne Bennett and Gillian Crowcroft, Mike Thorse, Colin Ogle and John Sawyer.

THE NEW ZEALAND BOTANIC REGION

The information on the Network website, from which this book was compiled, is for species that are indigenous to or naturalised within the New Zealand Botanic Region as defined by Allan (1961). The New Zealand botanic region encompasses the Kermadec, Manawatawhi/Three Kings, North, South, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham, Antipodes, Bounties, Snares, Auckland Campbell island/Motu Ihupuku and Macquarie.

ABOUT THE NETWORK

The Network has more than 800 members worldwide and is New Zealand's largest non-governmental organisation solely devoted to the protection and restoration of New Zealand's indigenous plant life.

The vision of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network is that *'no indigenous species of plant will become extinct nor be placed at risk of extinction as a result of human action or indifference, and that the rich, diverse and unique plant life of New Zealand will be recognised, cherished and restored'*.

Since it was founded in 2003 the Network has undertaken a range of conservation initiatives in order to achieve its vision.

That work has included:

- Training people in plant conservation
- Publishing plant books, reports and posters
- Raising money for the David Given Threatened Plant Research Trust to pay for plant conservation research scholarships
- Educating people about plant life through the Network website
- Connecting people through our website, the monthly newsletter, the Network conference and the annual general meeting

WHAT IS A THREATENED PLANT?

The NZ Threatened Plant Committee was formed in 1991 and ever since then it has met at regular intervals to review the status of indigenous vascular plants. It is made up of a team of botanists that between them have an extensive knowledge of the native plants of New Zealand.

This committee applies a set of criteria to each native plant to determine its conservation status. The resulting list of species classified as threatened is published in the NZ Journal of Botany (see for example [de Lange et al. 2018](#)). The main threat categories used are: Extinct, Nationally Critical, Nationally Endangered and Nationally Vulnerable, Declining. Other categories used are: Recovering, Relict, Naturally Uncommon, Coloniser, Vagrant and Data Deficient. For vascular plants the threat status used in this book is taken from the ['Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants, 2017'](#) by [de Lange et al. \(2018\)](#).

Recently other committees have been established to review the status of non-vascular plants and have produced assessments for New Zealand mosses ([Rolfe et al., 2016](#)) as well as horworts and liverworts ([de Lange et al., 2015](#)).

Aristotelia fruticosa

COMMON NAME

mountain wineberry

FAMILY

Elaeocarpaceae

AUTHORITY

Aristotelia fruticosa Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

ARIFRU

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A small-leaved shrub with hairy branchlets and veins evident on the underside of leaves

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands. Throughout, but often localised in occurrence

HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine forest understory and shrubland, commoner at higher altitudes



Balls clearing, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Mount Holdsworth, Tararua Forest Park.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

FEATURES

Dioecious, variable, much branched erect or low growing shrub, sometimes spiny, to 2 m tall; trunk and branches sub-divaricate to upright, rigid, sometimes entangled; bark reddish brown; branchlets reddish brown, pubescent. Leaves opposite or in opposite fascicles on arrested branchlets; petioles c. 2 mm long, widening into lamina; midvein inconspicuous above, midvein and secondary veins obvious below; lamina either 5-7 x 4-5 mm, obovate to oblong, coriaceous, dark green, or c. 15 x 9 mm, ovate to lanceolate, thinner, lighter green, margins distinctly serrate, tip acute to obtuse, base cuneate, undersides pale green. Juvenile leaves larger, thinner, irregularly lobed and serrate. Inflorescences inconspicuous, lateral along branchlets, flowers c. 2-3 mm diam., solitary, in opposite pairs or in 3-6 flowered cymes, on short pubescent pedicels 1-2 mm long. Sepals 4, oblong, pubescent; petals 4, slightly > sepals, with 1-4 crenate teeth, white to light pink to red. Stamens 4-6, not projecting beyond corolla, anthers > filaments. Ovary 2-celled(?), styles 2(?). Fruit a c. 2(?) -seeded fleshy berry, 3-4 mm diam., pale, white, pink, bright red to black, bitter to taste. Seed irregularly angled, ventral surface flattened, elliptic, 2.0-2.6 mm, surface irregular, attachment scar obvious, small orange aril sometimes present.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other small leaved shrub species with veins conspicuous below, particularly *Raukaua anomalous* (which has a flattened, jointed petiole) and *Melicytus micranthus* (which has a pale blotch at the base of the lamina)

FLOWERING

October-December

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

November to April

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

aristotelia: Named after Aristotle, the Greek philosopher and polymath

fruticosa: Shrubby

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan 1961, Heenan and de Lange 2006, Eagle 2000 and Webb and Simpson 2001.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Government Printer, Wellington

Heenan, P.B, de Lange, P.J. 2006. *Pseudowintera insperata* (Winteraceae), an overlooked and rare new species from northern New Zealand. NZ J. Botany 44: 89-98

Eagle, A. 2000. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of NZ. Te Papa Press, Wellington

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch

Wilson, H; Galloway, T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Manuka Press, Christchurch

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Aristotelia fruticosa* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aristotelia-fruticosa/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/aristotelia-fruticosa/>

Carmichaelia petriei

COMMON NAME

Desert broom

SYNONYMS

Carmichaelia petriei var. *minor* G.Simpson; *Carmichaelia ramosa* G.Simpson; *Carmichaelia virgata* Kirk

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Carmichaelia petriei Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

CARPET

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | At Risk – Declining

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Yellowish shrub with untidy erect leafless branches. Branches rounded, 1-3.5mm wide, with long yellow tips. Flowers small, pea-like, pink, in small clusters. Fruit a drooping dry pod containing 1-4 hard mottled seeds.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are possibly dispersed by wind and granivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

carmichaelia: After Carmichael, a botanist

petriei: Named after Donald Petrie (1846 -1925), Scottish born Otago botanist

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309



L. Pukaki, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



At Lake Pukaki, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carmichaelia-petriei/>

Coprosma lucida

COMMON NAME

karamū, shining karamū

SYNONYMS

Coprosma australis (Richard) Robinson, *Ronabea australis* Richard, *Coprosma grandifolia* Hook.f.

FAMILY

Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY

Coprosma lucida J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

COPLUC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tall shrub with green stems and glossy green pairs of leaves. Leaves 12-17cm long, oval, tapering to leaf stem and tip, main vein pale and causing a ridge on the upper and lower surface of leaf. Small colourless point on stem between bases of leaf pairs. Fruit red, in clusters.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

ETYMOLOGY

coprosma: From the Greek kopros 'dung' and osme 'smell', referring to the foul smell of the species, literally 'dung smell'

lucida: Shining

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Large, M.F.; Mabblerly, D.J.; Wood, E. 2020: *Coprosma autumnalis* (kanono; Rubiaceae) in New Zealand: nomenclature, iconography and phenology, *Kew Bulletin* 75: 37-43. DOI 10.1007/S12225-020-9876-4



Coromandel, August. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Coromandel, August. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Coprosma lucida* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/coprosma-lucida/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/coprosma-lucida/>

Corokia cotoneaster

COMMON NAME

korokio, wire-netting bush

FAMILY

Argophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Corokia cotoneaster Raoul

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

CORCOT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Common variable shrub with zig-zag thin grey twigs bearing clusters of small leaves that are white underneath with a dented or rounded tip and on a dark flattened leaf stalk. Flowers yellow, star-shaped. Fruit red.

DISTRIBUTION

North, South and Three Kings Islands.

HABITAT

Lowland shrubland, river-flats and rocky places throughout.

FEATURES

Much-branched shrub up to 3 m or more tall. Branchlets rigid, divaricate; bark dark, rough. Leaves of seedlings obovate-spathulate, often elongate and 3-lobed. Leaves of adults varying in size according to exposure, alternate or in alternate fascicles, obovate-cuneate to obovate-oblong to suborbicular, obtuse, emarginate or not; lamina dark or coppery green above, silvery white beneath, 2-15 x 2-10 mm, on flattened petiole up to 20 mm long. Flowers axillary and terminal, solitary or in fascicles of 2-4; 5-8 mm diameter, numerous per plant. Calyx-segments 1-1.5 mm long, ovate-triangular, pubescent on backs; petals bright yellow, usually 5, approximately 4-5 mm long, narrow oblong-ovate, acute to subacute, pubescent on backs. Drupes red or orange or yellow, 5-8 mm long.



Cotoneaster. Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Close up of leaves and fruit. Photographer: Wayne Bennett

SIMILAR TAXA

Helichrysum lanceolatum can closely resemble *Corokia* in the absence of flowers or fruit. *Helichrysum* lacks the distinctive zigzagging of stiff, dark branchlets, and has paler green, duller, thinner leaves with pointed rather than blunt or indented tips.

Olearia odorata has opposite leaves or leaf clusters and fluffy seeds.

Olearia capillaris has wavy or crinkle-cut edges to the leaves, fawn, peeling bark, and fluffy seeds.

Olearia polita has opposite leaves or leaf clusters, two ridges (lens helpful) along the young branchlets, and fluffy seeds.

FLOWERING

(September-) October-December (-April)

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

February-May (-September)

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy drupes are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

corokia: From the Maori name korokio or korokia-tarango

cotoneaster: from Latin cotneum, meaning 'quince', and the suffix -aster meaning 'imperfectly resembling'.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Corokia is a small genus of three species occurring naturally only in New Zealand. *C. cotoneaster* hybridises with the larger leaved *C. buddleioides* where the two species grow together, and some of the hybrid forms are popular as garden plants.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961) and Wilson & Galloway (1993).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pg. 441.

Moorfield, J. C. (2005). Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309.

Wilson, H. D., & Galloway, T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Manuka Press. pg. 182-184.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/corokia-cotoneaster/>

Veronica cupressoides

COMMON NAME

cypress hebe

SYNONYMS

Hebe cupressoides (Hook.f.) Andersen, *Hebe cupressoides* (Hook.f.) Cockayne et Allan nom. illeg., *Leonohebe cupressoides* (Hook.f.) Heads

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica cupressoides Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

LEOCUP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: RF

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: RF

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rare bushy shrub bearing masses of thin green slightly knobbly leafless twigs that have clusters of pinkish flowers at tips. Leaves scale like, 1-2mm long, triangular, spaced along and clasping the stem. Flowers with long projecting filaments. Fruit a dry rounded capsule.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Eastern South Island, occurring historically recorded from 35 sites extending from Marlborough south to Otago.

HABITAT

Veronica cupressoides is a plant of grey scrub communities and occurs across a range of sites from those that have been recently influenced by disturbance (especially river flooding and slips) to more stable sites such as rock outcrops and bouldery moraine.



Photographer: Neil Simpson



Flowering branch of *Leonohebe cupressioides*.
Photographer: David Norton

FEATURES

Aromatic bushy shrub up to 3 × 2 m. Branches erect, whip-like; branches green, grey-green, glaucous; internodes 1.5–6.5 mm; branchlets, including leaves 1.0–3.7 mm wide; leaf bases connate, hairy or glabrous; nodal joint distinct, exposed; leaves not readily abscising, persistent. Leaves connate, appressed; lamina 0.8–2.0 × 0.4–2.0 mm; deltoid, apex acute to obtuse; margin ciliolate or glandular-ciliolate, lower surface glaucous or glaucescent or yellowish-green, glabrous or covered in minute glandular hairs. Juvenile leaves pinnatifid, glabrous or puberulent.

Inflorescences 2–22-flowered, terminal, unbranched, 3–40 mm long, rachis 2–33 mm long, glabrous or hairy. Bracts opposite and decussate, shortly connate or free, ovate or deltoid, obtuse or subacute, externally hairy, hairs glandular. Flowers hermaphrodite, mostly sessile. Calyx 1.3–2.0 mm long, 2–4-lobed; lobes acuminate or emarginate, glandular ciliolate, especially externally. Corolla tube 0.9–1.4 × 0.8–1.1 mm, internally hairy; lobes longer than corolla tube, inner surface papillate, cream, white, pale blue, pink or mauve at anthesis, white, cream, pink or mauve with age, obtuse, suberect to recurved, corolla throat pink, mauve or white. Stamen filaments 2.1–3.0 mm long, coloured cream, pink or mauve when young, fading white; anthers 0.9–1.2 mm, reddish-pink to purplish-mauve. Ovary 0.8–1.1 mm long, ovoid or globose, apex didymous. Capsules 1.9–2.4 × 0.9–1.4 mm, angustiseptate, grooved along septum, emarginate, septicidal split extending 1/3-way to base, loculicidal split extending up to 1/3-way to base. Seeds 0.7–1.1 × 0.4–0.6 mm, weakly flattened, ovoid to ellipsoid-oblong or obovoid, pale brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica cupressoides is superficially similar to *V. propinqua* from which it differs by its finer branches, blue-green branchlets and wide spaces between scale leaves. Furthermore the foliage of *V. cupressoides* is very aromatic smelling strongly of turpentine. In contrast *Veronica propinqua* has white flowers, non aromatic foliage, green branchlets, with a shorter gap between the pairs of scale leaves.

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, Violet/Purple

FRUITING

March - May

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from semi-hardwood and hardwood cuttings and fresh seed. In cultivation flowering plants often produce numerous spontaneous seedlings. Rarely flowers in lowland, warmer or more humid climates.

THREATS

Habitat loss has been a key factor in the historical decline of *Leonohebe cupressoides*. The dominant threats now are recruitment failure caused by invasive herbaceous plants that rapidly occupy the disturbed sites this species requires to germinate in. Grazing animals, including domestic stock and wild species such as rabbits and hares can seriously damage or kill plants. Small populations are vulnerable to local extinction through disturbance such as river flooding, and fire – particularly as this species is extremely flammable wet or dry.

ETYMOLOGY

veronica: Named after Saint Veronica, who gave Jesus her veil to wipe his brow as he carried the cross through Jerusalem, perhaps because the common name of this plant is 'speedwell'. The name Veronica is often believed to derive from the Latin *vera* 'truth' and *iconica* 'image', but it is actually derived from the Macedonian name Berenice which means 'bearer of victory'.

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on Bayly & Kellow (2006) but see also de Lange et (2010)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Bayly M.; Kellow A. 2006: An Illustrated Guide to New Zealand Hebes. Te Papa Press: Wellington
- de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.
- Norton, D.A. 2000. Hebe cupressoides recovery plan, 2000-2010. Threatened Species Recovery Plan 33. Department of Conservation
- Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Veronica cupressoides Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.
<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-cupressoides/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-cupressoides/>

Melicytus alpinus

COMMON NAME

porcupine shrub

SYNONYMS

Hymenanthera dentata var. *alpina* Kirk, *Hymenanthera alpina* (Kirk) W.R.B.Oliv.

FAMILY

Violaceae

AUTHORITY

Melicytus alpinus (Kirk) Garn.-Jones

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

MELALP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rigid dense small hard shrub with many thick tapering grey speckled branches bearing clusters of small dark green oval leaves. Leaves variable, about 1cm long, widest towards the blunt tip. Flowers inconspicuous, bell-shaped, underneath branches. Fruit white, usually with purple patches.

ETYMOLOGY

melicytus: From the Greek meli (honey) and kytos (hollow container), referring to the staminal nectaries of the flowers. Literally “honey-cave”

alpinus: Alpine

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/melicytus-alpinus/>



In cultivation ex Wairarapa. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



In cultivation ex Wairarapa. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Olearia odorata

COMMON NAME

scented tree daisy

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Olearia odorata Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

OLEODO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub with many erect reddish twigs bearing pale narrow oval leaves that are white underneath inhabiting open areas east of Main Divide. Leaves 10-22mm long by 4-6mm wide. Flowers small. Seed fluffy.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

ETYMOLOGY

olearia: Named after Johann Gottfried Olearius, a 17th-century German scholar, writer of hymns and author of Specimen Florae Hallensis

odorata: Scented

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/olearia-odorata/>



Hakataramea pass, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



At Hakataramea pass, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

Coprosma rugosa

SYNONYMS

Plagianthus linarifolia Buchanan, Coprosma antipoda W.R.B.Oliv.

FAMILY

Rubiaceae

AUTHORITY

Coprosma rugosa Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

COPRUG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Orangeish very bushy large shrub with many interlacing wide-angled twigs bearing clusters of pairs of very narrow leaves. Twigs fuzzy becoming orange towards base. Leaves 10-14 mm long by up to 1.5mm wide, sometimes bearing tiny clusters of hairs on upper side (lens needed). Fruit pale blue.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy drupes are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

coprosma: From the Greek kopros 'dung' and osme 'smell', referring to the foul smell of the species, literally 'dung smell'

rugosa: Wrinkled

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/coprosma-rugosa/>



Arthurs Pass, May. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Arthurs Pass, May. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

Myrsine australis

COMMON NAME

red mapou, red matipo, mapau, red maple

SYNONYMS

Suttonia australis Richard, *Myrsine urvillei* A.DC., *Rapanea australis* (Richard) W.R.B.Oliv.

FAMILY

Primulaceae

AUTHORITY

Myrsine australis (A.Rich.) Allan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

MYRAUS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 46

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Common tall bushy shrub with bright red twigs bearing wavy yellow-green leaves. Leaves 3-6cm long, with an undulating edge. Flowers small, in clusters. Fruit almost black.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Three Kings, North, South and Stewart Islands.

HABITAT

Common tree of regenerating and mature forest in coastal to montane situations. Often common on northern offshore islands.



Fruit. Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Mapou. Photographer: Wayne Bennett

FEATURES

Shrub or small tree up 6 m tall. Trunk stout, 0.2-0.6 m diam. Bark dark black or purple-black, red on younger branches. Branchlets numerous erect to spreading, very leafy. Petioles stout, fleshy, 5 mm long, often red or green mottled red. Leaves 30-60 x 15-25 mm, dark green to yellow-green variously mottled or blotched with red, or purple spots, leathery, glabrous except for finely pubescent mid vein, obovate-oblong to broad-elliptic, apex obtuse, margins entire, strongly undulate, rarely flat. Inflorescence a fascicle, usually numerous and crowded, produced along branchlets and in leaf axils. Fixed female and inconstant male flowers on different plants, 1.5-2.5 mm diam., white, cream or pale green. Pedicels short, stout, dark red or purple-black. Calyx-lobes 4, sometimes heavily reduced, long persistent. Petals 4, lanceolate, obtuse, free, revolute. Fruit a 1-seeded drupe, 2-3 mm diam., purple-black to black when mature.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from all other New Zealand Myrsine by the small, purple/wine-red blotched or spotted, strongly undulating obovate-oblong to broad-elliptic leaves.

FLOWERING

August - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

FRUITING

September - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Can be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings but tricky. Best results are obtained using a mist unit.

ETYMOLOGY

myrsine: Myrrh

australis: Southern

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally cultivated. Easily grown in a wide range of habitats, making an ideal hedge or small specimen tree. Sometimes available from mainline commercial nurseries, and commonly sold by specialist native plant nurseries.

KEYSTONE IMPORTANCE

One of three known hosts for Adams mistletoe (*Trilepidea adamsii*).

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 28 October 2009. Description based on Allan (1961)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer.

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Myrsine australis Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myrsine-australis/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myrsine-australis/>

Carpodetus serratus

COMMON NAME

putaputāwētā, marbleleaf

FAMILY

Rousseaceae

AUTHORITY

Carpodetus serratus J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

CARSER

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 30

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small tree with smallish round or oval distinctively mottled (hence common name) toothed leaves; branchlets zig-zag (particularly when young)

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Widespread. North, South and Stewart Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane (10-1000 m a.s.l.). Moist broadleaf forest, locally common in beech forest. A frequent component of secondary forest. Streamsides and forest margins.

FEATURES

Monoecious small tree up to 10 m tall. Trunk slender, bark rough, corky, mottled grey-white, often knobbled due to insect boring. Juvenile plants with distinctive zig-zag branching which is retained to a lesser degree in branchlets of adult. Leaves broad-elliptic to broad-ovate or suborbicular; dark green, marbled; membranous becoming thinly coriaceous; margin serrately toothed; tip acute to obtuse. Juvenile leaves 10-30 mm x 10-20 mm. Adult leaves 40-60 mm x 20-30mm. Petioles c. 10 mm; petioles, peduncles and pedicels pubescent; lenticels prominent. Flowers in panicles at branchlet tips; panicles to 50 x 50 mm; flowers 5-6 mm diam.; calyx lobes c. 1 mm long, triangular-attenuate; petals white, ovate, acute, 3-4 mm long. Stamens 5-6, alternating with petals; filaments short. Stigma capitate, tip dark; ovules many. Fruit an indehiscent subfleshy-fleshy capsule, 4-6 mm diam., black when mature; cupped in remains of calyx. Seeds many per capsule, in 3-5 locules, small, 1-2 mm long; testa reticulate.



Mikimiki, Tararua Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Mikimiki, Tararua Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

SIMILAR TAXA

Not likely to be confused with any other NZ shrub or small tree. Perhaps most similar to juvenile kaikomako *Pennatia corymbosa* which does not have mottled leaves and the leaves are only toothed in the top half (reminiscent of a ducks foot).

FLOWERING

November-March

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

January-February (though dried fruit present at any time)

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

carpodetus: Fruit bound together (girdled)

serratus: Saw-toothed

NOTES

This species is damaged by the burrowing larvae of the native puriri moth (*Aenetus virescens*). Caterpillars create burrows in the trunk and feed on cambium at the burrow entrance, creating characteristic diamond-shaped feeding scars. The caterpillar hides the web entrance with a silken web. Heavy feeding can weaken trees, in particular those with thin trunks. For more information about the life-cycle of the puriri moth and a list of other host species follow this [link](#). (Martin, 2010).

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), puriri moth information modified from Martin (2010).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of NZ I. Government Printer, Wellington.

Martin, N. A. (2010). Puriri moth - *Aenetus virescens* fact sheet, retrieved from the website Interesting Insects and other Invertebrates.

http://nzacfactsheets.landcareresearch.co.nz/factsheet/OrganismProfile/Puriri_moth_-_Aenetus_virescens.html

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carpodetus-serratus/>

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides

COMMON NAME

kahikatea, white pine

SYNONYMS

Dacrydium excelsum D.Don in Lamb., *Dacrydium ferrugineum* Houttee ex Gord., *Dacrydium thuioides* Banks et Solander ex Carr., *Nageia excelsa* Kuntze, *Podocarpus dacrydioides* Richard, *Podocarpus thujoides* R.Br. In Bennett, *Podocarpus excelsus* (D.Don) Druce; *Podocarpus excelsus* (D. Don.) Druce

FAMILY

Podocarpaceae

AUTHORITY

Dacrycarpus dacrydioides (A.Rich.) de Laub.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

NVS CODE

DACDAC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands

HABITAT

Lowland forest, formerly dominant on frequently flooded, and/or poorly drained alluvial soils. Occasionally extends into lower montane forest. Once the dominant tree of a distinct swamp forest type all but extinct in the North Island - the best examples remain on the West Coast of the South Island.



Kahikatea. Photographer: DoC



Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

FEATURES

Stout, dioecious, cohort-forming conifer, 50 (-65) m. tall. Trunk 1(-2) m diam., often fluted and buttressed. Bark grey to dark-grey, falling in thick, sinuous flakes. Wood white, odourless. Trunks bare for 3/4 of length, subadults with a distinctive columnar growth habit, branches arising from 1/3 to 1/2 of trunk length. Branchlets slender, drooping. Leaves of juveniles subdistichous, subpatent, narrow-linear, subfalcate, acuminate, decurrent, 3-7 x 0.5-1mm red, wine-red, dark-green to green.; of subadults less than or equal to 4 mm., dark green or red; those of adults 1-2 mm., imbricating, appressed, keel, subtrigonal, lanceolate-subulate to acuminate with broader base, brown-green or glaucous. Male cones terminal, oblong, 10 mm. Pollen pale yellow. Ovule, terminal, solitary glaucous. Receptacle fleshy, oblong, compressed, warty, 2.5-6.5 mm., yellow to orange-red. Seed broadly obovate to circular (4-)4.5-6 mm diam., purple-black, thickly covered in glaucous bloom.

SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive tree of usually swampy alluvial terraces. The columnar growth form of subadults, buttressed and fluted trunk bases, scale-like leaves, and terminal fruits bearing the distinctive circular seeds serve to immediately distinguish this species from all other indigenous conifers.

FLOWERING

October - January

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

February - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. Can be grown from hard-wood cuttings but rather slow to strike.

THREATS

Not Threatened, although as a forest-type it has been greatly reduced through widespread logging. Very few intact examples of kahikatea-dominated forest remain in the North Island.

ETYMOLOGY

dacrycarpus: Tear shaped fruit

dacrydioides: Like a dacrydium

WHERE TO BUY

Commonly cultivated and frequently sold by most commercial nurseries and outlets. A very popular garden tree. A form with distinctly glaucous foliage is occasionally on offer.

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

Kahikatea is New Zealand's tallest indigenous tree. The white odourless timber was used extensively to make butter boxes, for much of the late 1800s and early 1900s. It was this practice which all but eliminated kahikatea-dominated swamp forest from the North Island and northern South Island.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 12 January 2004: Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer.

Gardner, R. 2001. Notes towards an excursion Flora. Rimu and kahikatea (Podocarpaceae). Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 56: 74-75

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Dacrycarpus dacrydioides* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dacrycarpus-dacrydioides/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dacrycarpus-dacrydioides/>

Griselinia littoralis

COMMON NAME

broadleaf, kāpuka, papauma

FAMILY

Griselinaceae

AUTHORITY

Griselinia littoralis Raoul

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

GRILIT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Bushy tree with a rough dark trunk bearing thick glossy green rounded leaves that are paler underneath on a yellowish stem. Leaves 5-10cm long by 2-5cm, base slightly uneven. Flowers small, yellowish or cream. Fruit dark purple, 6-7mm long, with a small ring at tip, arranged in a spike.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

griselinia: After Grisellini

littoralis: From the Latin littus 'shore', meaning shore-loving or growing on the shore

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/griselinia-littoralis/>



Coromandel, October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Coromandel, October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

Hoheria lyallii

COMMON NAME

mountain lacebark

SYNONYMS

Plagianthus lyallii (Hook.f.) Hook.f., *Gaya lyallii* Baker, *G. lyallii* var. *ribifolia* Kirk, *G. ribifolia* Cockayne

FAMILY

Malvaceae

AUTHORITY

Hoheria lyallii Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

HOHLYA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small spreading soft-wooded deciduous tree inhabiting dryer mountain areas of the South Island. Leaves thin, covered in small hairs, widest at base and narrowing to point, margin with many uneven blunt teeth and some deeper divisions, on long stalks. Flowers white, cupped, developing into a dry narrowly-winged fruit.

DISTRIBUTION

New Zealand: South Island where it is mostly known from eastern Canterbury and Marlborough with a disjunct population in Nelson (Kahurangi National Park)

HABITAT

Found in montane and subalpine areas in the upper forest margins. Occasionally found on river and stream terraces where it may be found in groves.



Upper Otira, Arthurs pass. January.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Emergent through briar, matagouri, Clarence Reserves. Photographer: Simon Moore

FEATURES

Tree up to 8 m tall, deciduous; hairs stellate; leaves heteroblastic. Juvenile leaves: lamina 13–40 × 15–40 mm, broad-elliptic to suborbicular, both surfaces sparsely to moderately hairy; apex subacute; base cordate to weakly truncate; margin deeply lobed to strongly crenate; petiole 15–52 mm long, sparsely to moderately hairy. Adult leaves: lamina 33–156 × 22–89 mm, elliptic to deltoid, adaxial and abaxial surfaces moderately to densely hairy, occasionally sparsely hairy; apex acute to subacute; margins crenate or double-crenate, often deeply lobed; base cordate to occasionally weakly truncate; petiole 10–43 mm long, moderately to densely hairy. Flowers axillary, solitary or in cymose fascicles of 2–3. Pedicels 12–25 mm long, sparsely to moderately hairy. Calyx 3.6–6.2 mm high, 7.0–9.5 mm wide, campanulate, densely hairy; lobes 5–6, 3.5–5.8 × 3.5–5.1 mm, triangular to narrowly triangular, apex acute. Petals 5(–6), 15.7–20.0 × 11.6–15.0 mm, white, oblong-orbicular to broadly oblong, adaxial surface and margin toward proximal part with scattered simple hairs, abaxial surface sparsely to moderately hairy; claw 1.5–2.5 mm long. Stamens 35–50; filaments 8.4–10.8 mm long, white, in pairs and adnate for one-quarter to three-quarters of their length, column with stellate and simple patent hairs; anthers 0.6–0.8 mm long. Carpels 8–14; ovary ovoid, 0.8–2.0 mm long, 0.8–2.0 mm diameter, densely hairy; style 8.4–10.0 mm long, pink, sparsely hairy, fused in lower half; stigma 0.3–0.4 mm diameter, capitate to slightly decurrent with style. Mericarp body 4.7–6.2 × 3.5–5.3 mm, broadly elliptic, laterally compressed; wing 1.2–2.2 mm wide, extending from upper two-thirds of dorsal surface, weakly ribbed, moderately hairy, margin irregularly toothed. Seeds 2.2–3.4 × 2.2–2.8 mm, orange brown, glabrous, semicircular to triangular, broader toward base, biconvex or with a rounded dorsal surface, sometimes with a narrow wing up to 0.4 mm wide, usually separating from mericarp at maturity. Description from Heenan et al. (2005).

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguishing Characters: *Hoheria lyallii* differs from *H. glabrata* by the shorter leaves which have truncate bases, moderately to densely hairy surfaces, and an acute apex. *Hoheria lyallii* and *H. glabrata* are a species pair, with *H. lyallii* confined to the drier part of the South Island, and *H. glabrata* to the wetter areas. *Hoheria glabrata* is the only species of the pair known to extend to the North Island.

FLOWERING

November - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

April - July

LIFE CYCLE

Winged mericarps are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Best from fresh seed. An extremely attractive species, unusual in the New Zealand flora for its deciduous habit. Prefers a damp soil in a sunny site, and does best in cooler climates. Dislikes humidity and will not flower in warmer climates unless it is subjected to cold treatment

ETYMOLOGY

hoheria: Latin version of the Maori name houhere which refers to *H. populnea* and *H. glabrata*.

lyallii: Named after David Lyall (1817-1895), 19th century Scottish naturalist and surgeon with the Royal Navy, who explored Antarctica, New Zealand, the Arctic and North America and was a lifelong friend of Sir Joseph Hooker.

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally sold by specialist garden centres.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange 3 April 2011

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Heenan, P.B.; Dawson, M.I.; Redmond, D.N.; Wagstaff, S.J. 2005: Relationships of the New Zealand mountain ribbonwoods (*Hoheria glabrata* and *H. lyallii*: Malvaceae), based on molecular and morphological data. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 43: 527–549.
- Moorfield, J. C. (2005). *Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index*. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.
- Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Hoheria lyallii* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hoheria-lyallii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hoheria-lyallii/>

Kunzea ericoides

COMMON NAME

kānuka

SYNONYMS

Leptospermum ericoides A.Rich.

FAMILY

Myrtaceae

AUTHORITY

Kunzea ericoides (A.Rich) Joy Thomps.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

KUNEVE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Common tree of the northern South Island only. Bark flaky. Branches often pendent at ends, bearing masses of needle-like bright green leaves and clusters of small white flowers. Branchlets appearing hairless (sparsely covered in very small erect hairs (20x magnification)). Leaves to 25 mm long, soft to grasp. Flowers borne in 'corymbiform' clusters, white with a red centre. Fruit a small dry capsule 1.9–3.4 × 1.8–3.9 mm.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Northern South Island only - north of the Buller and Wairau Rivers. Most common in North West Nelson.

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland shrubland, regenerating forest and forest margins, also present in montane forest, ultramafic shrubland and very occasionally present in subalpine shrubland.



Kunzea ericoides - tree showing weeping branches characteristic of this species.
Photographer: Peter de Lange



Pupu Walkway & Springs 5 Jan 2006.
Photographer: Mike Wilcox

FEATURES

Trees up to 18 m. Trunk 1–4, 0.10–0.85 m d.b.h. Early bark brown to grey-brown, ± elongate, usually firmly attached, margins elongate sinuous, ± entire with scarcely any flaking; old bark similar. Branches slender, initially ascending soon spreading, apices often pendulous. Branchlets numerous, slender, glabrescent; indumentum sparse, deciduous, hairs divergent 0.02–0.05 mm long; leaves of branchlets densely crowded along stems. Leaves sessile, ± glabrous, except for the margins; lamina 4.0–25.0 × 0.5–1.8 mm, green to yellow-green, linear, linear-lanceolate, to narrowly lanceolate, straight or with upper ¼ weakly recurved, apex acute, sometimes cuspidate, base attenuate; lamina margins initially finely sericeous, glabrate or glabrous; hairs forming a fine, discontinuous band failing just short of lamina apex. Inflorescence a compact corymbiform to shortly elongate 3–15-flowered botryum up 60 mm long. Pherophylls foliose ± persistent, 1 per flower; lamina 3.0–7.8 × 0.9–1.4 mm, elliptic, lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate, apex acute, base attenuate; Pedicels 1.6–3.8 mm long at anthesis, usually glabrous. Flower buds pyriform to narrowly obconic, apex of mature buds weakly domed to flat, calyx lobes distant. Flowers 4.1–8.3 mm diam. Hypanthium 1.4–3.2 × 1.9–4.1 mm; sharply obconic, apex terminating in 5 persistent suberect to spreading calyx lobes; hypanthium glabrous (very rarely with basal ¼ finely, sparsely covered in minute hairs). Calyx lobes 5, suberect to spreading, 0.4–1.0 × 0.4–1.0 mm, orbicular, obtuse to broadly deltoid, red-green, pink or crimson, margins glabrous or finely ciliate. Receptacle green or pink at anthesis, darkening to crimson or dark magenta after fertilisation. Petals 5, 1.4–2.6 × 1.5–2.0 mm, white, orbicular, suborbicular to narrowly ovate, spreading, apex rounded, entire or very finely denticulate, oil glands usually not evident when fresh, ± colourless. Stamens 10–34 in 1–2 weakly defined whorls, filaments white. Anthers dorsifixed, 0.35–0.48 × 0.16–0.24 mm, broadly ellipsoid. Pollen white. Anther connective gland prominent, pink or pinkish-orange when fresh, drying red to orange, ± spheroidal ± coarsely papillate. Ovary 4–5 locular, each with 16–24 ovules in two rows on each placental lobe. Style 1.5–2.2 mm long at anthesis; stigma capitate, about 1¼× the style diam., flat, cream or white, flushing pink after anthesis, surface very finely granular-papillate. Fruits rarely persistent, 1.9–3.4 × 1.8–3.9 mm, glabrous, dark green to reddish-green, maturing brown to grey-brown to grey-black, cupular, barrel-shaped, shortly cylindrical to hemispherical, calyx valves erect with the apices incurved, split concealed by dried, erect, free portion of hypanthium. Seeds 1.00–1.05 × 0.32–0.50 mm, semi-glossy, orange-brown to dark brown, obovoid, oblong, oblong-ellipsoid, or cylindrical and ± curved, surface coarsely reticulate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished from all other members of the *Kunzea ericoides* complex by the glabrescent to glabrous branchlets. The bright green, finely, linear-lanceolate leaves and small flowers with very low stamen numbers also help to identify this variety.

FLOWERING

October–February

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

November–March

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are dispersed by wind and possibly water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Very easy from fresh seed. Seed must be sown fresh, even if left for a few weeks before sowing viability can drop, especially if seed is allowed to dry out. Very difficult from cuttings, though soft wood water shoots give the best results.

THREATS

Not threatened, though some stands are at risk from clearance for farmland or through felling for firewood.

ETYMOLOGY

kunzea: Named after Gustav Kunze (4 October 1793, Leipzig –30 April 1851), 19th century German botanist from Leipzig who was a German professor of zoology, an entomologist with an interest mainly in ferns and orchids

ericoides: Like a heath

WHERE TO BUY

Uncommon in cultivation. It does not seem to be commercially available. Most plants sold as *K. ericoides* are another, very common, allied species *Kunzea robusta*.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 25 August 2014. Description modified from de Lange (2014).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J. 2014: [A revision of the New Zealand *Kunzea ericoides* \(Myrtaceae\) complex. *Phytokeys* 40: 185p doi: 10.3897/phytokeys.40.7973.](#)

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Kunzea ericoides* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/kunzea-ericoides/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/kunzea-ericoides/>

Pittosporum tenuifolium

COMMON NAME

kohukohu, kōhūhū, black matipo

SYNONYMS

Trichilia monophylla Richard, *Pittosporum fasciculatum* Hook.f., *Pittosporum tenuifolium* subsp. *fasciculatum* (Hook.f.) Kirk, *Pittosporum tenuifolium* var. *fasciculatum* (Hook.f.) Kirk, *Pittosporum colensoi* var. *fasciculatum* (Hook.f.) Cheeseman, *Pittosporum tenuifolium* Sol. ex Gaertn. subsp. *tenuifolium*

FAMILY

Pittosporaceae

AUTHORITY

Pittosporum tenuifolium Sol. ex Gaertn.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PITTEN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small tree with very dark twigs bearing pale green shiny wavy thin leaves and very dark flowers and 12mm wide capsules that split into two or three to show the black sticky seeds. Leaves usually 2-4cm long.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic and widespread throughout country.

HABITAT

A small tree of coastal to montane shrubland and forested habitats. Preferring successional habitats.



Bartons Bush, Trentham, Upper Hutt.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Bartons Bush, Trentham, Upper Hutt.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

FEATURES

Shrub or small gynodioecious tree up to 10 m tall (usually much less). Trunk 0.3-0.4(-0.6) m diam., stout, clad in dark grey-black or brown persistent bark. Branches numerous, erect then spreading. Branchlets and young leaves pubescent, hairs pale yellow or cream. Petioles short, somewhat fleshy. Leaves alternate, (10-)30(-70) x (5-)10(-20) mm, leathery, pale-green to dark green above, lighter below, oblong, oblong-ovate or elliptic-obovate, apex obtuse to acute, rarely acuminate, margins entire, often undulose. Flowers solitary or in axillary cymes, rather fragrant, especially at night. Pedicels stout, pale green, fleshy, bracts entire, lanceolate, caducous. Sepals narrowly ovate-oblong, subacute to obtuse, silky hairy. Petals 12 mm long, lanceolate, dark red, black (rarely yellow or white). Capsules 2-valved (rarely 3), subglobose, valves woody, black when mature, long persistent. Seeds immersed in sticky, red or yellow viscid pulp.

FLOWERING

October - November (-December)

FLOWER COLOURS

Black, Red/Pink

FRUITING

January - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Can be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings.

ETYMOLOGY

pittosporum: Pitch seed

tenuifolium: Thin leaf

WHERE TO BUY

Very common in cultivation. Kohuhu and cultivars are commonly sold by commercial nurseries and are also grown throughout the world.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 10 January 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pittosporum tenuifolium* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pittosporum-tenuifolium/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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

Podocarpus totara var. totara

COMMON NAME

tōtara

SYNONYMS

Podocarpus totara G.Benn. ex D.Don

FAMILY

Podocarpaceae

AUTHORITY

Podocarpus totara G.Benn. ex D.Don var. totara

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

NVS CODE

PODTOT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 34

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Common throughout most of the North and South Islands. Present but extremely scarce on Stewart Island (Freshwater River).

HABITAT

Widespread and at times abundant tree of lowland, montane and lower subalpine forest. May also form a vegetation type in which it is the dominant species.

FEATURES

Robust dioecious conifer up to 30 m tall. Trunk stout, 2-3 m diam., clad in thick, corky, furrowed and somewhat stringy reddish-grey bark. Trunk without branches at base, branches stout, erect to spreading. Leaf bud narrower than or the same diam., as branchlet, surrounded by caducous, papery, narrowly lanceolate bracts. Leaves brownish-green, erect, leathery; juvenile 20 x 1-2 mm, adults 15-30 x 3-4 mm., linear-lanceolate, acute, apex pungent, mid-vein distinct to obscure. Male cones (strobili) axillary 10-15 mm, solitary or in 4s. Female branchlets axillary, ovules solitary or paired, receptacle of 2-4 scales, acute and free at tips, maturing as a red, swollen, succulent, sweet tasting "fruit" this surmounted by a 1(-2) broadly elliptic, ovoid-oblong 3-6 mm, semi-glossy, buff, grey nut brown, henna or dark brown (green to glaucous-green) when fresh, seed.



Totara. Photographer: DoC



Totara bark. Photographer: DoC

SIMILAR TAXA

Most frequently confused with *Podocarpus laetus* with which it may co-occur and with which it frequently hybridises. From that species *P. totara* var. *totara* can be distinguished by its thicker bark, less pungent leaf tips, and most readily by the leaf bud which is the same diameter as the branchlet, and by the narrower, lanceolate bracts surrounding the emergent leaves. See also Gardner (1990) in references below.

FLOWERING

(August-) October (-December)

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

Fruits take a year or so to ripen, and may be found throughout the year, usually peaking at about the same time that cones are produced. They are most frequently seen between April and May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and hard-wood cuttings.

THREATS

Not Threatened, though as a vegetation type it is all but extinct throughout most of its former range.

ETYMOLOGY

podocarpus: Foot or stalk fruit

totara: After the Maori name, totara

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

The distinctive red, somewhat oily wood was the timber of preference for use by Maori for constructing canoes (waka), and carvings. The stringy bark was harvested to make bags in which to hold preserved birds.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Gardner, R. 1990. Totara and Halls totara. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 45:27-28.

Moorfield, J. C. (2005). *Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index*. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.

Landcare Research. Nga Tipu Whakaoranga - Maori Plant Use Database.

<http://maoriplantuse.landcareresearch.co.nz/WebForms/default.aspx>

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Podocarpus totara* var. *totara* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/podocarpus-totara-var-totara/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/podocarpus-totara-var-totara/>

Sophora microphylla

COMMON NAME

kōwhai, weeping kōwhai, small-leaved kōwhai

SYNONYMS

Edwardsia microphylla (Aiton) Salisb., *Edwardsia grandiflora* var. *microphylla* (Aiton) Hook.f.; *Sophora tetraptera* var. *microphylla* (Aiton) Hook.f.; *Sophora microphylla* Aiton var. *microphylla*; *Sophora microphylla* Aiton subsp. *microphylla*; *Sophora microphylla* Aiton subsp. *microphylla* var. *microphylla*

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Sophora microphylla Aiton

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

SOPMIC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A common kowhai tree bearing leaves 30-50mm long that have spaced equal-sized leaflets 4.5-12.5mm long and with bunches of drooping yellow flowers and dry ridged and knobbly seed pods 50-200mm long containing hard yellow seeds. Juveniles with zig-zagging branches.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Throughout the main islands of New Zealand but scarce in parts of Northland.

HABITAT

In the North Island, especially the northern half this is a species of mainly riparian forest. South of about Hamilton it can be found in a diverse range of habitats from coastal cliff faces and associated wetlands to inland grey scrub communities. Scarce to absent over large parts of the eastern North Island from about East Cape south to the northern Wairarapa.



Flowers, Nugget Point. Photographer: John Barkla



Flowers, Nugget Point. Photographer: John Barkla

FEATURES

Tree up to 25 m tall, usually a single trunk. Branches weeping, and spreading. Juveniles divaricating and/or strongly flexuose, and interlacing. Leaves on seedlings sparsely to moderately leafy, 3-5.8 x 2.3-4.9 mm, broadly obovate to orbicular, glabrous to sparsely pubescent, distant, not crowded or overlapping. Adult leaves up to 150 mm long, imparipinnate, moderately to sparsely hairy, hairs, straight, appressed. Leaflets 30-50, not crowded or overlapping, distant, 4.5-12.5 x 2.3-5.7 mm, elliptic, broadly elliptic, obovate to ovate, sometimes orbicular, distal and proximal leaflets of similar size. Inflorescences racemose with up to 7 flowers. Calyx 5-11 x 7-10 mm, cupulate. Flowers yellow, keel petal blade 18-50 x 7-13 mm, wing petal blade 18-50 x 6-11 mm, standard petal blade 20-35 x 14-25 mm; petals with distinct claws 4-8 mm long. Fruit 50-200 mm long, 4-winged, brown, with up to 12 seeds. Seeds 5.5-8.5 x 4.-5.5 mm, oblong, elliptic to orbicular, yellow to light yellow-brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from the other Kowhai species by the divaricating/filiramulate juvenile and arborescent adult, leaves > 30 mm, leaflet pairs > 6, these sparsely to moderately hairy, with the distal and by the obvious petiolule.

FLOWERING

(May-) August-October

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

October -May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from seed, provided the hard seed shell is nicked first with a knife or rubbed with sandpaper to expose the endosperm. Soaking seed treated this way overnight often helps speed up germination. Can be grown with difficulty from cuttings.

THREATS

The main threat that faces all wild New Zealand kowhai species is the risk posed through planting for revegetation and horticultural purposes of hybrid material, foreign species, such as the Chilean Pelu (*S. cassioides*) and also of kowhai species outside their natural range. In many places *S. microphylla* occurs as isolated stands within otherwise cleared alluvial forest, and in this situations the loss of trees over time is inevitable. The species is genuinely uncommon in Northland, and in that area inadequately represented within reserves and other conservation land.

ETYMOLOGY

sophora: After the Arabic name for a similar tree

microphylla: Small leaf

WHERE TO BUY

Commonly available at most commercial nurseries. A popular native tree for larger gardens. However many plants sold by nurseries are hybrids with either *S. chathamica* or *S. tetraptera*.

POISONOUS PLANT

All parts of the plant but especially the ripe yellow seed are poisonous. Because the seed are hard they will take a lot of chewing to cause harm, and also will need to be consumed in large quantities to effectively poison a human. If the seed are crushed before eating it is more likely that they will cause harm. The major toxin is Cytisine and symptoms of poisoning include nausea, vomiting, increased heart rate, twitching of muscles or loss of coordination. Onset of these symptoms may occur within one hour. In extreme cases symptoms include paralysis and respiratory failure. Click on this link for more information about [Poisonous native plants](#).

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (31 July 2004). Description adapted from Heenan et al. (2001).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Anonymous. 1944. Kowhai. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 9: 4-5

Duguid, F. 1971. Germination of kowhai at Hokio beach. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 37: 65-66.

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P. J.; Wilton, A. D. 2001: *Sophora* (Fabaceae) in New Zealand: taxonomy, distribution, and biogeography. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 39: 17-53

CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Sophora microphylla* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sophora-microphylla/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sophora-microphylla/>