



## *Syzygium maire*

### Common Name(s):

Swamp maire, Maire tawake, Waiwaka

### Current Threat Status (2018):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

### Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Island from Te Pahi south to Rarangi (near Blenheim). Now often scarce or absent over large parts of its former range due to the clearance of swamp forest.

### Habitat:

Mostly found in coastal and lowland riparian forest in waterlogged ground, on the margins of swamps and streamsides. Also found in some of montane forest and cloud forest of Northland (e.g., Tutamoe), the western Waikato (Pirongia, Taumatotara and Tawarau) and the lower margins of Egmont National Park where high rainfall and poor drainage provide ideal conditions for this tree to establish on hill slopes, tablelands and with karst landscapes.

### Features\*:

Glabrous tree to c.16 m high. Trunk up to 0.8 m dbh, solitary or with several arising from base, often with knees and where the root plate is exposed frequently bearing pneumatophores. Bark smooth, pinkish grey, grey-brown or white, flaking in soft or brittle, irregular shards. Branches numerous, spreading, branchlets numerous, spreading, 4-angled. Leaves opposite, subcoriaceous, adaxially yellow-green to green, glossy often bearing small galls and leaf blisters, midrib impressed, side veins slightly impressed scarcely evident when viewed from above; abaxial surface pale green, midrib prominently raised, side veins evident when fresh or dried; margins entire, sinuate or undulate; petioles 5-10 mm long, slender, brittle. Lamina 15-60 × 10-25 mm, usually elliptic, sometimes broadly elliptic. Inflorescences in cymose 5-30-flowered clusters, up to 100 mm diameter. Pseudopedicels slender. Hypanthium 2-3 mm long at anthesis, obconic; calyx lobes very short and broad, persistent on fruit. Petals 2-3 mm diameter, orbicular, white, forming calyptrum in bud, caducous. Stamens numerous, 5-12(-18) mm long, white, in 6-8 (or more) indistinct whorls, filaments 4.5-17.5 mm long, white, anthers basifixed, pollen white. Style 5-18 mm long, distinctly broader than stamens and tapering, cream to yellow-green. Ovary adnate to base of hypanthium. Fruit 10-15 mm diameter, subglobose, broad-ellipsoid or elliptic-ovoid, flesh deep crimson, glossy. Seed 1, 6-11 mm long, obovate, testa dull, very hard, covered in fibres, striped pale orange-yellow and pale brown, brown or grey-brown.

### Flowering:

November - July

### Fruiting:

January - December

### Threats:

Conservation status raised to Nationally Critical in 2017, following the arrival of myrtle rust in NZ. In addition, many populations now qualify as "Living Dead" as they persist (and are in slow terminal decline) as remnants within partially drained farmland (previously riparian forest).

### \*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by: P.J. de Lange (5 November 2005). Description based on Webb et al. (1988), Webb & Simpson (2001) and observations made from fresh material. Status updated 1 Nov 2019 by C C Ogle, following <https://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/science-and-technical/nztcs22entire.pdf>

### References and further reading:

Cameron, E.K., Cutting, M. 1995. Maire tawake at Browns bay Auckland. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 50: 66-70.

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2011: *Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons*. Christchurch, Manuka Press.

Webb, C. J.; Sykes, W. R.; Garnock-Jones, P. J. 1988: *Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons*. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1313](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1313)



**Caption:** *Syzygium maire*  
**Photographer:** Wayne Bennett



**Caption:** Flower of *Syzygium maire*  
**Photographer:** Wayne Bennett