



## *Alectryon excelsus* subsp. *excelsus*

### Common Name(s):

New Zealand ash, titoki

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands from Te Paki to Banks Peninsula

### Habitat:

A widespread coastal to lowland forest tree. Often favouring well drained, fertile, alluvial soils along river banks and associated terraces. It is also a major component of coastal forests, particularly those developed within exposed situations or on basaltic or andesite volcanics. It is a common offshore island tree within the Hauraki Gulf. The large fruits are bird dispersed and so titoki trees often occur as a sparse components of most lowland forest types, throughout the North Island.

### Features\*:

Tree between 10m and 20m tall. Branches stout, erect, all parts invested with fine, velutinous, ferruginous hairs. Bark brown. Adult leaves dark green, matt when mature, imparipinnate, alternate 80-260 mm long. Leaflets 3-7 pairs; lamina 45-105 x 19-40 mm, subcoriaceous, lanceolate, oblong or narrowly-ovate, apex, subacute often acuminate, rarely obtuse; base cuneate, truncate to oblique, upper leaf surface matt; lamina margin entire or deeply serrated 1-4 times near apex. Inflorescences axillary 90-120 mm long, sparingly branched panicles. Flowers bisexual or staminate. Petals absent. Stamens 5-8 in bisexual and 6-10 in staminate flowers, crimson. Stigma ovoid, in staminate flowers ovary tholiform, style absent, in perfect flowers broadly urceolate, style 1.5-2 mm, erect. Fruits sessile, 1-2-lobed, 14-20 x 9-14 mm, pubescent, globular, carina 3-5 mm long on one side. Seed 7-10 x 4-8 mm, subglobose, black, lustrous, sarcotesta fleshy, scarlet, papillose.

### Flowering:

October - December (-June)

### Fruiting:

November - August

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 August 2005). Description by P.J. de Lange based in part on de Lange et al. (1999).

### References and further reading:

Cameron, E.K. 1998. Frost resistance in titoki *Alectryon*. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 53: 15.

de Lange, P.J.; Cameron, E.K.; Murray, B.G. 1999: *Alectryon excelsus* subsp. *grandis* (Sapindaceae): a new combination for an uncommon small tree endemic to the Three Kings Islands, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37: 7-16.

Duguid, F. 1961. Flowering in titoki. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 32: 16

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

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1486](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1486)



**Caption:** Algies Bay, Auckland

**Photographer:** John Sawyer



**Caption:** Carter Scenic Reserve

**Photographer:** John Sawyer