



Ascarina lucida var. *lucida*

Common Name(s):

Hutu

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands: From Kaitaia south to Wellington, mostly in the west, and only common in the Coromandel Ranges. Abundant on North-west Nelson and Westland.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane. A forest species which is most common in the wetter lowland and coastal forest of North-west Nelson and Westland. Elsewhere it is mostly uncommon, sporadic and often absent over large parts of its range.

Features*:

Glabrous monoecious shrub or small tree up to 8 m; trunk up to 300 mm diameter. Branchlets slender, becoming striate, dark purple. Interpetiolar stipules conspicuous, hair-like, 3, dark reddish-purple to maroon. Petioles 8-10 mm long; lamina coriaceous, 20-80 × 15-38 mm, elliptic to oval to obovate, obtuse to acute to subacuminate, cuneately narrowed to base; margins coarsely serrate; surface glossy yellow-green (rarely dark green) above, paler below, serrations dark purple-black or maroon. Inflorescences spicate; spikes oppositely arranged, solitary or

openly branched up to 5 times, slender; branches 30-40 mm long. Flowers alternate, sessile, subtended by green or red-tinged, 0.8-1.2 mm long, less crenulate to serrate, deltoid to broadly ovate, acute bract and a smaller lateral pair. Male flower with one cylindrical anther 2.5-3.0 mm long; Female flower smaller, solitary or 2-3 together located between anther and stem stigma broad, sessile, ovary sessile. Fruit 2.5-3.0 mm long, broadly ovoid, fleshy white drupe.

Flowering:

August - December

Fruiting:

January - May

Threats:

Not Threatened but very uncommon in the North Island

*Attribution:

Description based on Allan (1961).

References and further reading:

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

de Lange, P.J. 1998. Two interesting plant records from Mt. Pirongia western Waikato. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 53: 66-69

Martin, T.J. 2002. *Ascarina lucida* in the Auckland region. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 57: 57-59

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1517



Caption: Westhaven

Photographer: Simon Walls



Caption: Flowers.

Photographer: John Braggins