



Ascarina lucida var. *lanceolata*

Common Name(s):

Kermadec Islands Hutu

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. Kermadec Islands, Raoul Island only.

Habitat:

One of the characteristic trees of the wet forests of Raoul Island which are mostly found above 245m. However, in the ravines this tree may extend down to almost sea level. In the wet forest it is mostly a subcanopy tree which co-associates with *Coprosma acutifolia*, *Pseudopanax kermadecensis*, *Melicytus* aff. *ramiflorus* and on occasion *Boehmeria australis* subsp. *dealbata*. Occasionally, such as on the ridge lines and crater rim it may form part of the forest canopy.

Features*:

Glabrous gynodioecious tree up to 15 m tall. Trunk up to 500 mm diameter. Bark greyish-white. Branchlets slender, striate, initially pale green maturing dark green to emerald green. Interpetiolar stipules conspicuous, comprising 3 1.2-2.6 mm long pale pink to red, filaments; these connate near base, behind which are 3-6 smaller hyaline filaments. Petioles up to 15-20 mm long, lamina subcoriaceous, somewhat fleshy, 50-100 × 10-30 mm, green, emerald green to dark green above, paler beneath, serrations weakly pigmented, pink to pale maroon often fading into pale pink spotting, narrowly lanceolate, lanceolate, lanceolate-oblong to narrowly elliptic, acuminate to acute. Inflorescences spicate comprising female or mixed male and female spikes on separated trees; spikes congested, oppositely arranged, solitary or rather closely branched up to 5 times, branches up to 30 mm long. Flowers alternate, sessile, subtended by 4 green, 0.8-1.0 mm long, entire, deltoid to broadly ovate, acute bracts (apex pink or dotted with pink). Male flowers with one anther 2.0-3.0 mm long. Female flower smaller, solitary or 2-3 together located between anther and stem; stigma broad, sessile, ovary sessile. Fruit 3.0-2.0 mm long, broadly ovoid, fleshy, white and maroon-blotched or maroon-striated, subcylindric drupe.

Flowering:

July - December

Fruiting:

January - August

Threats:

Naturally Uncommon. A locally abundant tree of the wetter forest and ravine vegetation on Raoul. It is listed only because of its natural geographic restriction to a single island.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 January 2010. Description by P.J. de Lange based on cultivated plants, herbarium and fresh specimens.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1518



Caption: Raoul Island

Photographer: Peter de Lange



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