



Alectryon excelsus subsp. *grandis*

Common Name(s):

Three Kings titoki

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

Distribution:

Endemic to the Three Kings Archipelago, where it is known from Great (Manawa Tawhi) and West Islands.

Habitat:

Coastal Forest, where it often grows along the more exposed margins. Occasionally it is found as a subcanopy tree within the dense kanuka (*Kunzea* aff. *ericoides*) forest that dominates the Three Kings Islands.

Features*:

Small spreading shrub tree 2-7 x 3-10 m; multitrunked from base. Branches stout, erect, all parts invested with fine, velutinous, ferruginous hairs. Bark brown, lenticillate. Adult leaves light to dark green, vernicose, imparipinnate, alternate 14-70 mm long. Leaflets 2-4 pairs; lamina 90-160 x 60-90 mm, subcoriaceous, broadly oblong or ovate, apex obtuse, subacute often acuminate, base cuneate, truncate to oblique, upper leaf surface vernicose, bullate; lamina margin entire. 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, 15-20 x 10-14 mm, pubescent, globular, carina 3-5 mm long on one side. Seed 8-10 x 6-9 mm, subglobose, black, lustrous, sarcotesta fleshy, scarlet, papillose.

Flowering:

October to December

Fruiting:

December to April

Threats:

In the past this tree was virtually eliminated by goats. Since goats were eradicated in 1946, Three Kings titoki has gradually increased in range, and is now found in scattered sites across most of the eastern side of Great Island. A single tree has also been reported from West Island.

*Attribution:

Description based on de Lange et al. (1999).

References and further reading:

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.

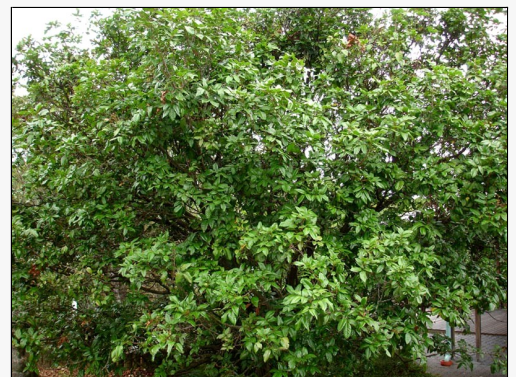
For more information, visit:

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Caption: *Alectryon excelsus* subsp. *grandis*

Photographer: Peter de Lange



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