



## *Pouzolzia australis*

### Common Name(s):

Kermadec Nettle Tree

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

As currently circumscribed by Wilmot-Dear & Friis (2006) *Pouzolzia australis* is indigenous to Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands as well as the Kermadec Islands, where it is now known only from Raoul and Macauley Islands. While the merger of *Boehmeria australis* subsp. *dealbata* with *B. australis* subsp. *australis* into *Pouzolzia* as *P. australis* seems sensible, the merger of the very distinctive Lord Howe endemic *Boehmeria calophleba* requires further critical study before it should be universally followed. For a concise explanation of the differences between *Boehmeria* and *Pouzolzia* see Wilmot-Dear et al. (2009).

### Habitat:

Coastal forest, cliff faces, recent and semi-stable slips, low scrub.

### Features\*:

Shrub or small tree up to 8 m tall. Branchlets at first covered in fine white pubescence, maturing with age grey. Leaves alternate, 60-200 x 30-60 mm, ovate-ovate-lanceolate, borne on stout petioles 25 to 30 mm long, leaf apex acuminate, upper surface glabrescent, rugulose to almost smooth, undersides finely clad in dense white hairs (so giving a white colour to leaf undersides). Midrib and veins prominent, glabrescent, yellow-green. Inflorescences numerous, sessile, axillary glomerules (clusters). Male flowers with acuminate perianth segments 2-3 mm long, clad in stiff hairs, females with tubular perianth up to 2 mm long, contracted at 2-toothed apex; stigma filiform, protruding. Fruits compressed, broadly winged, the ovoid achenes minute.

### Flowering:

Year round

### Fruiting:

Year round

### Threats:

Formerly threatened with extinction through heavy browsing pressure from goats. Following the eradication of goats from Raoul Island Kermadec nettle tree did not at first recover. Indeed it seems to have declined further and for a decade or so it became very scarce. It was presumed that this was caused by competition from weed species, which had, following the goat eradication, rapidly spread into the type of habitat it was assumed Kermadec nettle tree requires. Current fieldwork now suggests that Kermadec nettle tree is rapidly spreading and colonising new habitats, such that it is no longer considered to be a seriously threatened plant. In May 2011 *Pouzolzia* was rediscovered on Macauley Island where it had been believed to have gone extinct over a 100 years before.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 30 August 2009. Description adapted from Allan (1961).

### References and further reading:

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

de Lange, P.J.; Gardner, R.O.; Sykes, W.R.; Crowcroft, G.M.; Cameron, E. K. Stalker, F.; Christian, M.L.; Braggins, J.E. 2005: Vascular flora of Norfolk Island: some additions and taxonomic notes. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 43: 563-596.

Wilmot-Dear, C.M.; Friss, I. 2006: The Old World species of *Pouzolzia* (Urticaceae, tribus Boehmerieae). A taxonomic revision. *Opera Botanica (Nordic Journal of Botany)* 24: 5-114.

Wilmot-Dear, C.M.; Acharya, N.; Kravtsova, T.I.; Friis, I. 2009: *Pouzolzia rugulosa* transferred from *Boehmeria*, and the distinction between *Boehmeria* and *Pouzolzia* (Urticaceae). *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* 66: 51-64.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=51](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=51)



**Caption:** Ex. Cult Mt Albert

**Photographer:** Gillian Crowcroft



**Caption:** Ex. Cult Mt Albert

**Photographer:** Gillian Crowcroft