



## *Solanum opacum*

### Common Name(s):

Green berry nightshade

### Current Threat Status (2018):

Data Deficient

### Distribution:

New Zealand: Kermadec and North Island - probably elsewhere. A widespread species in the Pacific Basin and Australasia,

### Habitat:

A species of coastal and lowland, often early stage successional habitats. Also found in wasteland and urban areas growing with *S. nigrum* and *S. americanum*.

### Features\*:

Annual or short-lived perennial herb, forming spindly plants or densely branched bushes up to 1 m tall, all parts either glabrous or silky hairy. Stems unarmed or weakly armed. Leaves on petioles (10-)20-60 mm long; lamina variable, 10-50(-80) x 8-40(-76) mm, green, yellow-green, dark-green, often blotched or tinged maroon, sometimes purple-green; ovate, ovate-oblong, lanceolate-ovate, entire, sinuate or coarsely toothed (sometimes distantly so), rarely lobulate, base attenuate to broadly attenuate, sometimes narrowly winged; apex acute. Inflorescences, umbellate, (3-)5-6(-10)-flowered, peduncles stout, 10-20 mm long, pedicels deflexed (strongly so at fruiting). Calyx 2-3 mm diameter at anthesis, accrescent; lobes broadly ovate to oblong, usually strongly reflexed at fruiting (sometimes with mixtures of mostly reflexed, and some weakly accrescent). Corolla 5-8 mm diameter, stellate, white or pale mauve, lobes narrowly lanceolate to narrowly deltoid. Anthers 1.0-1.5 mm. Berry up to 10 mm diameter, globose, green, purple-black or black, dull (not glossy); stone cells present. Seeds 1.0-2.5 mm diameter, obovate to broadly obovate or circular, compressed, orange-yellow to pale tan, glossy or not.

### Flowering:

Throughout the year

### Fruiting:

Throughout the year

### Threats:

Probably 'Not Threatened' but as the presence of this species in New Zealand has only recently (2017) been recognized (specimens of this species have previously been confused with *S. americanum* and *S. nigrum*) as a precautionary measure it would be appropriate to treat *S. opacum* as 'Data Deficient' until more information becomes available. Indications are that it is likely to be widespread, at least in northern New Zealand, and it is present on the Kermadec Islands. This interim threat assessment will need to be ratified by the New Zealand indigenous vascular plant threat listing panel.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 30 November 2017. Description by P.J. de Lange

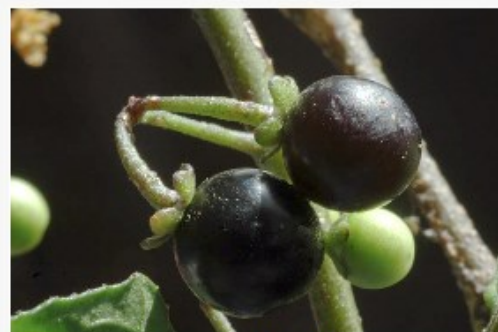
### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=7724](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=7724)



**Caption:** Newtown, Wellington.

**Photographer:** Colin Ogle



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