

Litsea calicaris

COMMON NAME

mangeao, tangeao

SYNONYMS

Tetranthera calicaris Hook.f.

FAMILY

Lauraceae

AUTHORITY

Litsea calicaris (A.Cunn.) Benth. et Hook.f. ex Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

LITCAL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small bushy tree bearing glossy green thin undulating oval leaves and dark purple fruit inhabiting the upper North Island. Leaves 5-12.5cm long by 3-5cm wide, taper to both the tip and base, leaf stalk dark. Flowers yellowish, in clusters. Fruit 15-20mm long.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Three Kings and North Islands. Common to about Mokau in the west and the Rotorua lakes area and Mahia Peninsula in the east

HABITAT

Coastal lowland and lower montane forest. Mangeao is usually a fairly localised tree over much of its range but in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty, particularly on the deep so called “ash” soils and on the limestones in the western Waikato it can be the dominant canopy tree. Although mangeao seems to like high rainfall it is (or was) also an important tree on the lava fields of Auckland, and it is one of the few tree species to grow on the ultramafic rocks of North Cape.



Kaikohe - Moerewa. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/09/2008, Licence: CC BY.



Kaikohe - Moerewa. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/09/2008, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout, spreading tree up to 18 m tall; trunk up to 0.80 m dbh; usually solitary, rarely branched from base, often sporting numerous suckers and epicormic growth; bark dark grey to grey-brown, firm (not flaking). Branches stout, initially upright and then shortly to widely spreading, branchlets numerous, sparingly lenticillate, glabrous. Leaves alternate, subcoriaceous, glabrous, adaxially glossy dark green, yellow-green or green suffused with red, sometimes mottled or spotted with dark red or purple (emergent leaves often glaucescent or deeply tinged wine-red), abaxially glaucous or tinged wine-red; midrib raised on both surfaces, venation distinct when fresh or dried; petioles 15-30 mm long, somewhat wiry, dark green red or maroon-black; lamina 50-130 × 30-60 mm, ovate, oval, ovate-elliptic, apex obtuse to subacute, base broadly cuneate. Inflorescence an axillary, racemosely arranged, 4-5-flowered, open or rather congested, involucre, umbel; peduncle 10-40 mm long, rigidly wiry, pedicels sparsely, minutely, pubescent. Involucrum comprising 4, 5-10 mm long, broadly oblong to oblong-elliptic, glabrous, somewhat fleshy, ± caducous pale green, cream (often red-tinged) scales. Flower perianth segments 4-6(-8), 4-5 mm long, cream, white, pale yellow or greenish, oblong to ovate. Stamens 10-12(-18); filaments slender, 0.8-2.6 mm long, white or pinkish white, biglandular; staminodes flattened, biglandular; stigma dilated, irregularly 3-lobed. Drupe 15-22 mm long, 1-seeded, subovoid to ovoid, seated in enlarged perianth tube; mesocarp purple-black. Endocarp membranous, 10-13 mm long, dark brown. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

SIMILAR TAXA

None

FLOWERING

September - November

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

September - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Although easily grown from seed mangao is often fickle and hard to maintain. In nursery conditions seedlings and saplings can be difficult to maintain. Even apparently well established trees will in cultivation inexplicably die. It for this reason that mangao is rarely available from nurseries.

THREATS

Not Threatened. Mangao while certainly not threatened at a national level is experiencing a decline over some parts of its range. While possum browse is a factor in some areas, die back of apparently healthy trees in areas where possums are controlled or scarce is of some concern. From time to time "mangao die back" is reported in the media - the cause of this "die back" warrants further study.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 10 February 2011. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Christchurch, Manuka Press.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Litsea calicaris* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/litsea-calicaris/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/litsea-calicaris/>