

# Myoporum rapense subsp. kermadecense

## COMMON NAME

Kermadec ngaio

## SYNONYMS

*Myoporum kermadecense* Sykes

## FAMILY

Scrophulariaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Myoporum rapense* subsp. *kermadecense* (W.R.Sykes) Chinnock

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Spreading small tree bearing glossy dark green narrow toothed leaves inhabiting the Kermadec Islands. New growth very glossy, dark and sticky. Leaves to 25mm wide, tapering to a point. Flowers white with purple spots, at base of leaves. Fruit pink, on a stalk.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Kermadec Islands (the Meyers, Chanter, Raoul, Macauley, Cheeseman and Hazard Islands).

## HABITAT

A common and often dominant species of rock stacks and coastal scrub. Sometimes forming a dense forest. On the Raoul Island it is a common component of coastal forest both as a canopy dominant and as an understorey species.



Cultivated, October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Close up of Flowers, Macauley Island. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Low spreading shrub to slender tree up to c.13 m high, habit dense or open with foliage clustered towards ends of shoots, glabrous except for the corolla and style, bark rough and furrowed in older plants. Shoots purple when young, with viscid, purple-black, rarely green, buds. Leaves on reproductive shoots, subsessile or with petiole to 10 mm long. Lamina (30-)35-80(-100) x (7-) 10-25(-40) mm, usually narrow elliptic or elliptic lanceolate, sometimes in exposed situations elliptic or elliptic-obovate, submembranous to rather succulent, glands scarcely visible, margins serrulate (except towards base), sometimes obscurely so, very rarely entire, base attenuate, apex short to long acuminate. Leaves on juvenile and vegetative shoots often larger (to 170 x 50 mm), more strongly toothed and juvenile ones may have evident glands. Flowers in fascicles of 2-5, sometimes solitary. Pedicels 10-14 mm long at anthesis, to 18 mm long in fruit, slender, angular. Calyx lobed to near base; segments 5, 2.7-3.5 mm long in flower, narrow lanceolate to narrow triangular, occasionally ovate-lanceolate, entire, glabrous or less commonly ciliate, acuminate, accrescent and 3-5 mm long in fruit. Corolla 11-15 mm diameter, (4)-5-lobed, white with purple dots (very rarely dots absent), bearded inside; corolla tube 4-7 mm long, lobes 4-7 x 3-5 mm, oblong or elliptic-oblong, pellucid glands present; apex rounded. Filaments 5-8 mm long; anthers exerted, 1.3-1.5 mm long, reniform. Style 4-5(-6) mm long, hairy. Fruit 5-8-(10) long, broad oblong to ovoid, mauve, occasionally white, smooth.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *M. laetum* by the narrow elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate rather than narrow to broad elliptic or obovate leaves that are 10-25 mm wide (cf. 15-45 mm in *M. laetum*); short to long acuminate rather than acute, mucronate, or shortly acuminate leaf apices; inconspicuous, small lamina glands; narrow triangular to narrow lanceolate, rather than lanceolate to ovate calyx lobes and broad oblong to ovoid rather than broad oblong, narrow to broadly ovoid fruits.

## FLOWERING

Present throughout the year

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

## FRUITING

Present throughout the year

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and by semi-hardwood cuttings. Very fast growing and excellent for a dry, sunny situation or as a hedge plant. Cold sensitive. Will hybridise with *M. laetum* or *M. aff. insulare*.

## THREATS

Not threatened. Listed because it is a locally endemic naturally confined to the large islands of the Kermadec Islands group

## ETYMOLOGY

**myoporum**: Shut pore

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (20 August 2009). Description from Sykes (1987) but see also Chinnock (2007).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Sykes, W. R. 1987: Kermadec ngaio (*Myoporum*, Myoporaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 25: 595-601.  
Chinnock RJ 2007. *Eremophila* and allied genera. New South Wales, Rosenberg Publishing.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Myoporum rapense* subsp. *kermadecense* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myoporum-rapense-subsp-kermadecense/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myoporum-rapense-subsp-kermadecense/>