

Alseuosmia macrophylla

COMMON NAME

toropapa, karapapa

FAMILY

Alseuosmiaceae

AUTHORITY

Alseuosmia macrophylla A.Cunn.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

ALSMAC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Glossy shrub with strong-smelling, obvious, red, tubular drooping flowers. Leaves glossy, wavy.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island throughout but absent from the central volcanic plateau where it is replaced by *A. turneri*. South Island, North-West Nelson only

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings though these strike with varying degrees of success. Seed is often hard to germinate. Layers readily. Prefers a semi-shaded site in a cool place with permanently damp soil. Slow growing and prone to sudden collapse during dry spells.

THREATS

Although not considered nationally threatened this species is often heavily browsed by ungulates and possums, and rarely sets much viable seed, except where indigenous nectar feeding birds are common - such as on rodent-free offshore islands



Foliage. Photographer: Wayne Bennett, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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

ETYMOLOGY

alseuosmia: Perfume grove

macrophylla: Big leaf

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/alseuosmia-macrophylla/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/alseuosmia-macrophylla/>