

Leionema nudum

COMMON NAME

Mairehau

SYNONYMS

Phebalium nudum Hook.f.

FAMILY

Rutaceae

AUTHORITY

Leionema nudum (Hook.) Paul G. Wilson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

LEINUD

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small bushy shrub with narrow finely notched leaves inhabiting the north of the North Island. Leaves 25-45mm long by 5-10mm wide, blunt, often brownish green, margins with many tiny nicks. Flowers white, with many projecting filaments. Fruit dry.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Confined to the North Island where it is locally distributed from Te Paki south to Pukenui Hill, Kawhia in the west and the northern Kaimai Range in the east. Rather uncommon south of Auckland and Thames

FLOWER COLOURS

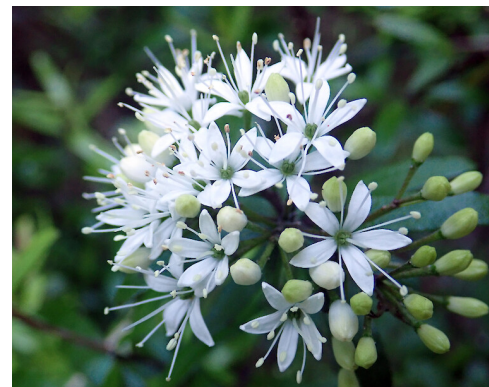
White

LIFE CYCLE

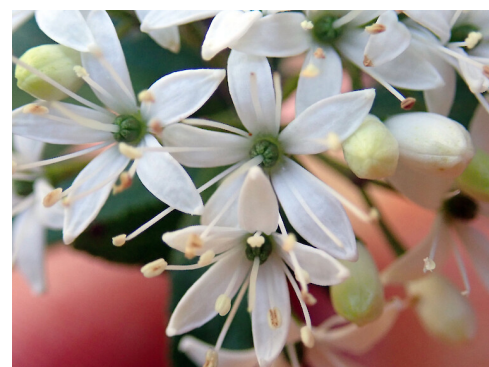
Drupes are dispersed by ballistic projection and possibly ants (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings and seed. Cuttings are often hard to strike, and seed can be slow to germinate. Cold sensitive but once established quite hardy. A beautiful shrub which should be more widely grown



Leionema nudum - close up of inflorescence. Near Paeroa, Waitewheta River, track from 'Windows Walkway' to Dickey's Flat. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 17/10/2020, Licence: CC BY.



Leionema nudum - Flowers. Near Paeroa, Waitewheta River, track from 'Windows Walkway' to Dickey's Flat. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 27/10/2022, Licence: CC BY.

THREATS

Not Threatened but it is heavily browsed by goats over some parts of its range

ETYMOLOGY

nudum: Bare

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally sold by specialist native plant nurseries.

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

The fragrant leaves when crushed exude an oil which in some people can cause severe burns if the affected skin is then exposed to strong sunlight. *Leionema nudum* is the only species of the genus found outside Australia.

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* 11: 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leionema-nudum/>