

# Melicytus obovatus

## SYNONYMS

Hymenanthera obovata Kirk

## FAMILY

Violaceae

## AUTHORITY

Melicytus obovatus (Kirk) Garn.-Jones

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

MELOBO

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Relict | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp, St

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A shrub with leaves that vary depending on location and age of plant inhabiting the Cook Strait and Takaka regions. Twigs speckled. Leaves to 5 cm long, network of veins more visible on the paler underside, edges either smooth or wavy. Flowers small, bell-shaped, hanging. Fruit white blotched with purple.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## ETYMOLOGY

**melicytus:** From the Greek meli (honey) and kytos (hollow container), referring to the staminal nectaries of the flowers. Literally “honey-cave”

**obovatus:** From the Latin prefix ob- (‘reverse’) and the adjective ovatus ‘egg-shaped’. Thus obovatus means ‘reverse egg-shaped, i.e. the broadest part above the middle’.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/melicytus-obovatus/>



Melicytus obovatus (September flowers).  
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