

Mida salicifolia

COMMON NAME

maire

SYNONYMS

Mida cunninghamii Chatin, *M. myrtifolia* A. Cunn., *M. salicifolia* var. *myrtifolia* (A.Cunn.) Allan, *M. eucalyptoides* A.Cunn. *Fusanus cunninghamii* Benth. et Hook.f. ex Kirk,

FAMILY

Nanodeaceae

AUTHORITY

Mida salicifolia A.Cunn.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

MIDSAL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 66

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: RF

2004 | Gradual Decline

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small tree bearing a variety of shapes of dark green glossy leaves (that are sometimes in pairs) paler underneath with small dots inhabiting the North Island. Leaves narrow and thin or rounded, to 12cm long. Flowers small. Fruit red, in small clusters at base of leaves.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island from North Cape to Wellington but scarce south of the Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland forest. Often in association with kauri (*Agathis australis*) but also common in other mixed Podocarp forests. A generalist root parasite.



Long Bay Reserve, Coromandel (August).
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Te Arai Scenic Reserve, Northland.
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small hemiparasitic, glabrescent to glabrous tree up to 6 m tall. **Bark** smooth, grey to grey-black, branchlets slender, brittle. **Petioles** slender, short, somewhat fleshy. **Leaves** mostly alternate, sometimes with a few subopposite to opposite, (50)–100–(120) × (10)–20–30–(40) mm, upper surface dark green to yellow green, very glossy, undersides paler and mat, lamina variable in shape ranging from linear, narrow-lanceolate, ovate to oblong-ovate, broad-elliptic to rhomboid, with all types occasionally present on the same individual, acute, subacuminate to acuminate, somewhat papery, membranous or semi-coriaceous, margins entire, sinuate or distinctly “scalloped”. **Inflorescence** and axillary, few-flowered raceme. **Pedicels** c. 5 mm. **Flowers** gynodioecious, greenish, pink or red. **Tepals** (4)–5–(6), broadly triangular, caducous. **Stamens** (4)–5–(6), subtended by small hair tufts. **Disc** (4)–5–(6)-lobed. **Stigma** 2–4-lobed. **Fruit** 7–12 × 6–8 mm, narrow-turbinate, bright red, receptacle rim persistent. Description adapted from Allan (1961).

SIMILAR TAXA

Most commonly confused in the vegetative state with species of maire (*Nestegis*) from which it can be distinguished because *Nestegis* spp. have leaves that are always opposite, not distichous and have finely spotted leaf surfaces (caused by glandular leaf hairs). In *Nestegis* spp. there are always short hairs on the young growth and the vegetative buds (which are usually two) are pointed and distinctly maroon-coloured.

FLOWERING

September–November

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

FRUITING

October–February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult and should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

Threatened by possum, goat and deer browse, and in some places almost extinct from the actions of these animals. However it is also extremely common over large parts of its range, though most abundant on possum-free islands or sites with rigorous possum control.

ETYMOLOGY

mida: From maire, the Maori name for this species

salicifolia: From the Latin *Salix* ‘willow’ and *-folia* ‘leaf’, meaning ‘willow-leaved’

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Mida and *Nanodea* have been segregated from the Santalaceae to form a new family the Nanodeaceae (Nickrent et al. 2010).

ATTRIBUTION

Prepared by P.J. de Lange April 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

Gardner RO. 1997. *Mida salicifolia* our native sandalwood. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 52: 42–43.

Nickrent DL, Malecot V, Vidal-Russell R, Der JP. 2010. A revised classification of the Santalales. *Taxon* 59(2): 538–558. <https://doi.org/10.1002/tax.592019>.

Moorfield JC. 2005. Te Aka : Māori-English, English-Māori dictionary and index. Longman/Pearson Education, Auckland, NZ. 357 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/mida-salicifolia/>