

Corynocarpus laevigatus

Karakanut, New Zealand laurel

Corynocarpus laevigatus J.R. Forster and G. Forster

Family: Corynocarpaceae

Description: Tree to 50 ft tall. Leaves 6 inches long by 2.5 inches wide, dark green, thick, margins slightly wavy. Flowers in spring in clusters on upright, stiff stalks, greenish yellow, not showy. Fruits in summer in pendant clusters, orange, flesh thin over a large seed, 1.5 inches long. Seeds poisonous raw. Maori detoxified them by long cooking⁽⁵⁹⁾. *Koryne*, club; *karpos*, fruit; for shape of fruit; *laevigatus*, smooth, for hairless foliage⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Distribution: Native to New Zealand. Introduced to Kaua'i in 1891 and naturalized by 1912 in Kōke'e. Most common at Kōke'e, Kaua'i, where it was aurally seeded in 1929; also occurs on O'ahu, Moloka'i, and Hawai'i⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Forms monotypic stands. Browsed by deer. Fruits eaten by feral pigs and the seeds spread thereby.

Management: Sensitive to cut-surface (notching) applications of glyphosate. Triclopyr, dicamba, and 2,4-D a little less effective so may require closer spacing of notches⁽⁵⁰⁾. Basal bark application of imazapyr effective. Thinline application of Pathfinder® II in vertical streaks effective.

