

Leptospermum scoparium

New Zealand tea tree, manuka

Leptospermum scoparium J.R. Forster and G. Forster

Family: Myrtaceae

Description: Escaped ornamental shrub to 15 ft tall. Bark shreds into long strips, young branches finely hairy. Leaves narrow to ovate, 0.6 inches long, 0.15 inches wide, finely hairy becoming smooth. Flowers pink or white. Fruits small woody capsules, 5-valved. Seeds short and slender. Name from the Greek *leptos*, slender, and *sperma*, seed; *scoparius*, Latin for broom-like, for its long branches with fine leaves⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Distribution: Native to New Zealand and Tasmania. Occurs in mesic to wet forests of Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Lana'i, where the first Hawai'i collection was made in 1927⁽⁷⁰⁾.



Environmental impact: Prolific seeder, invades disturbed forest sites.

Management: DOFAW, Katie Cassel (Kōke'e Museum), and U.S. Army all reported that decapitated New Zealand tea trees do not resprout. Cassel reported it was sensitive to triclopyr.