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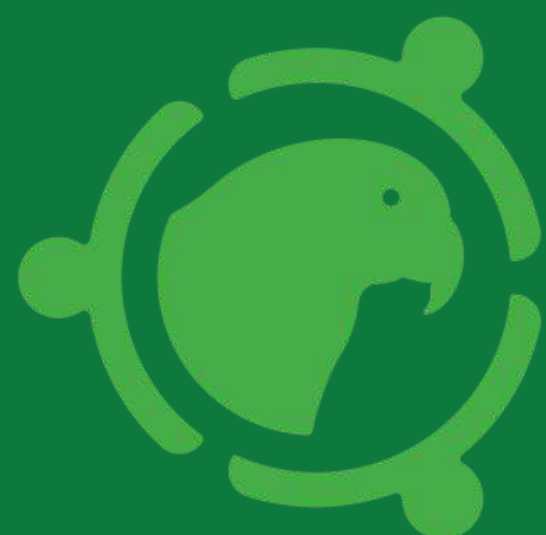
Native Plants & Where to Plant Them



Updated: 16 June 2023

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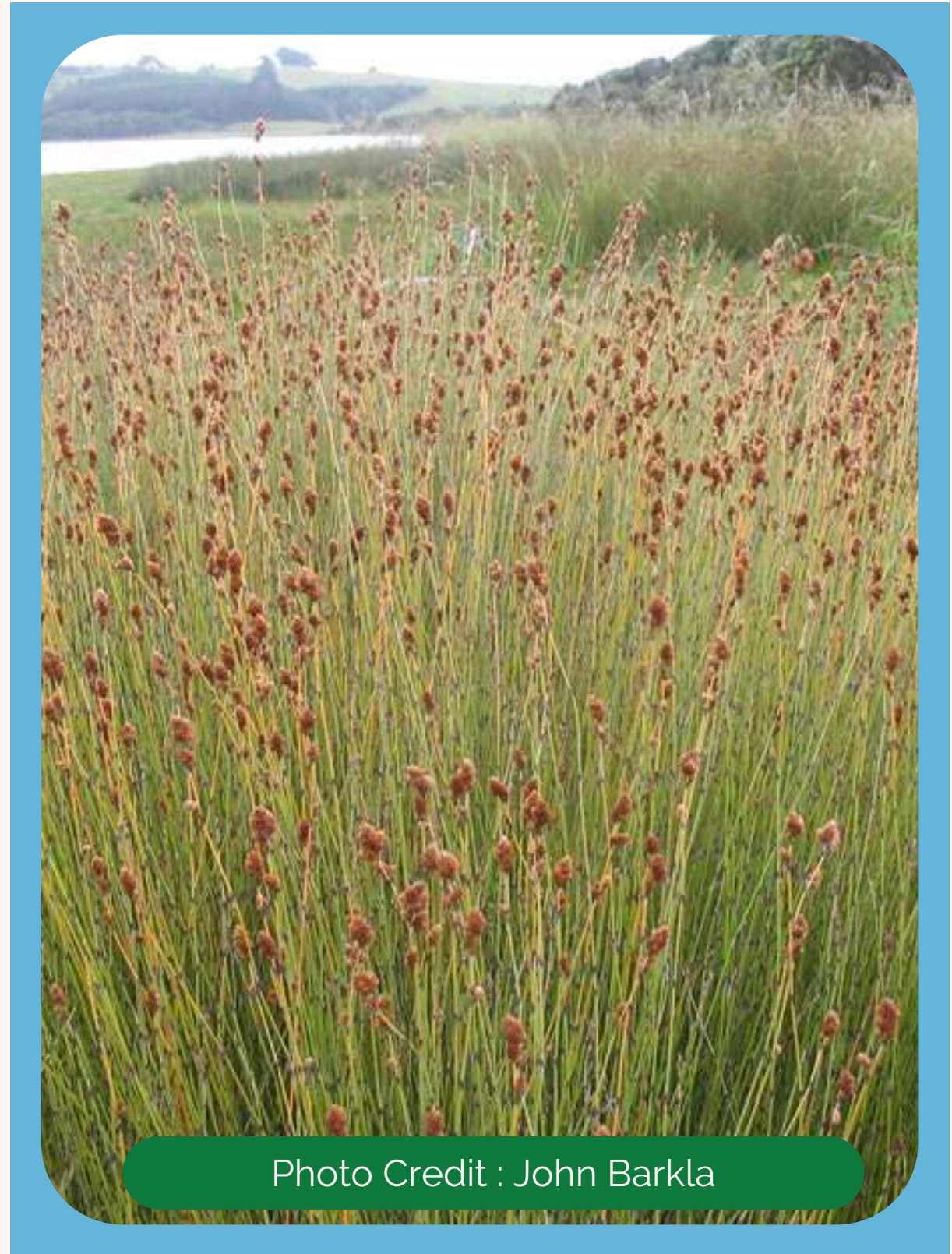
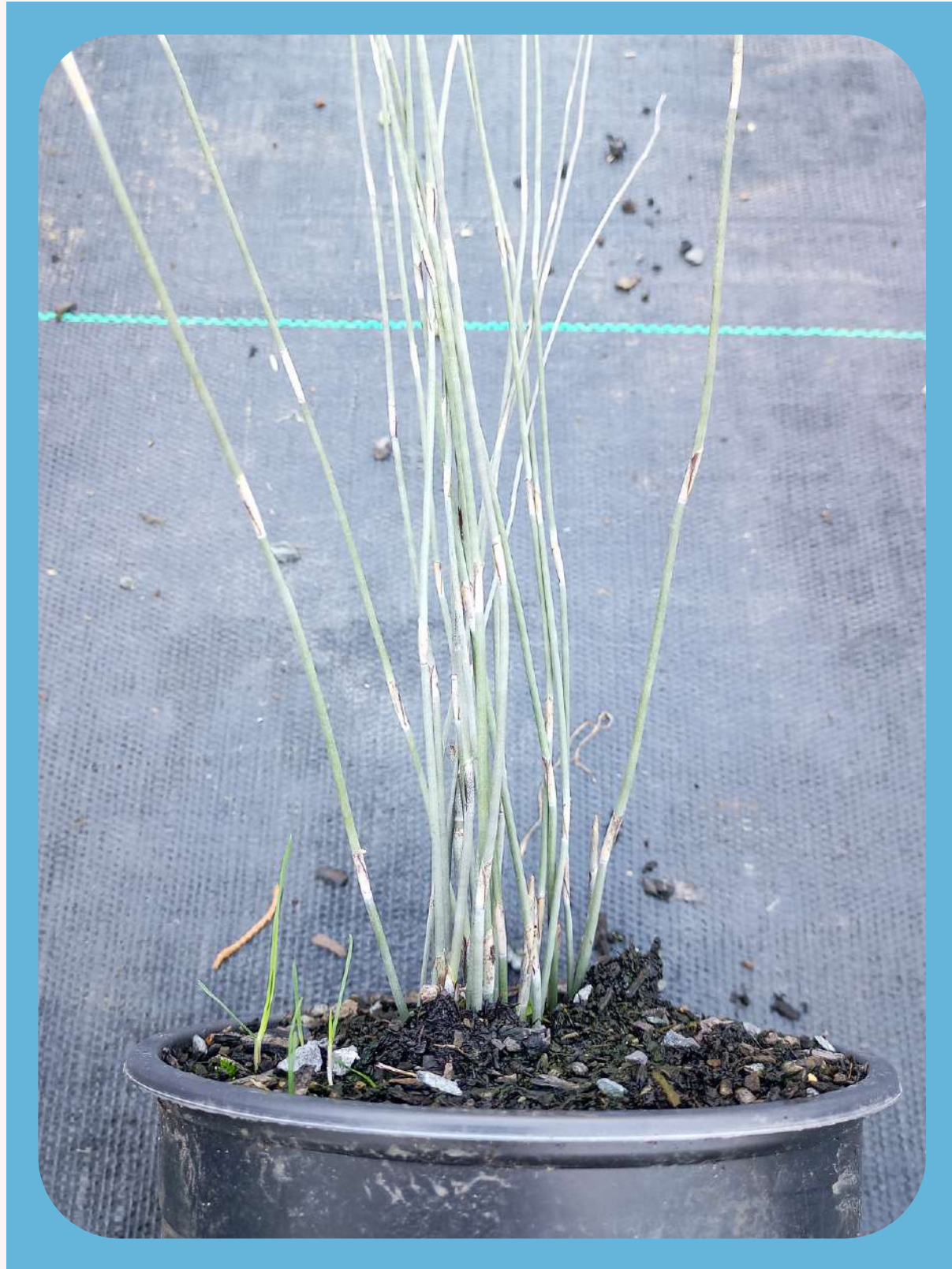
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Apodasmia similis

(Jointed Wire Rush)



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Succulent yet very thin and flexible straight stems, ranging from dull grey to emerald green colour, with numerous dark "joints" within the stems.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Clumps of erect grey-green to reddish stems. Flowering from October and fruiting from December to March.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 1m/1m

GROWTH FORM

Rush

LOCATION

Hardy, tolerates various soils and dry spells. Best planted in open sun, moist or saturated soil. Favours margins of estuaries, saline and freshwater wetlands, river mouths, ponds, possibly dunes.

MAKOMAKO

Aristotelia serrata

(Wineberry)



Photo Credit : www.forestfauna.co.nz

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Heart-shaped, deeply toothed leaves with slight pink gloss on the underside; branches reddish when young.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

This tree has smooth bark, and is semi-deciduous with red/pink/white flowers followed by fleshy dark red to black berries. Shares the Māori name with the native Bellbird.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 10m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Best in moderate conditions, partial light. Lowland to lower montane forest, especially margins, clearings, and regenerating bush. Can be frost tender when young. Enjoys dampness.

TOETOE

Austroderia richardii

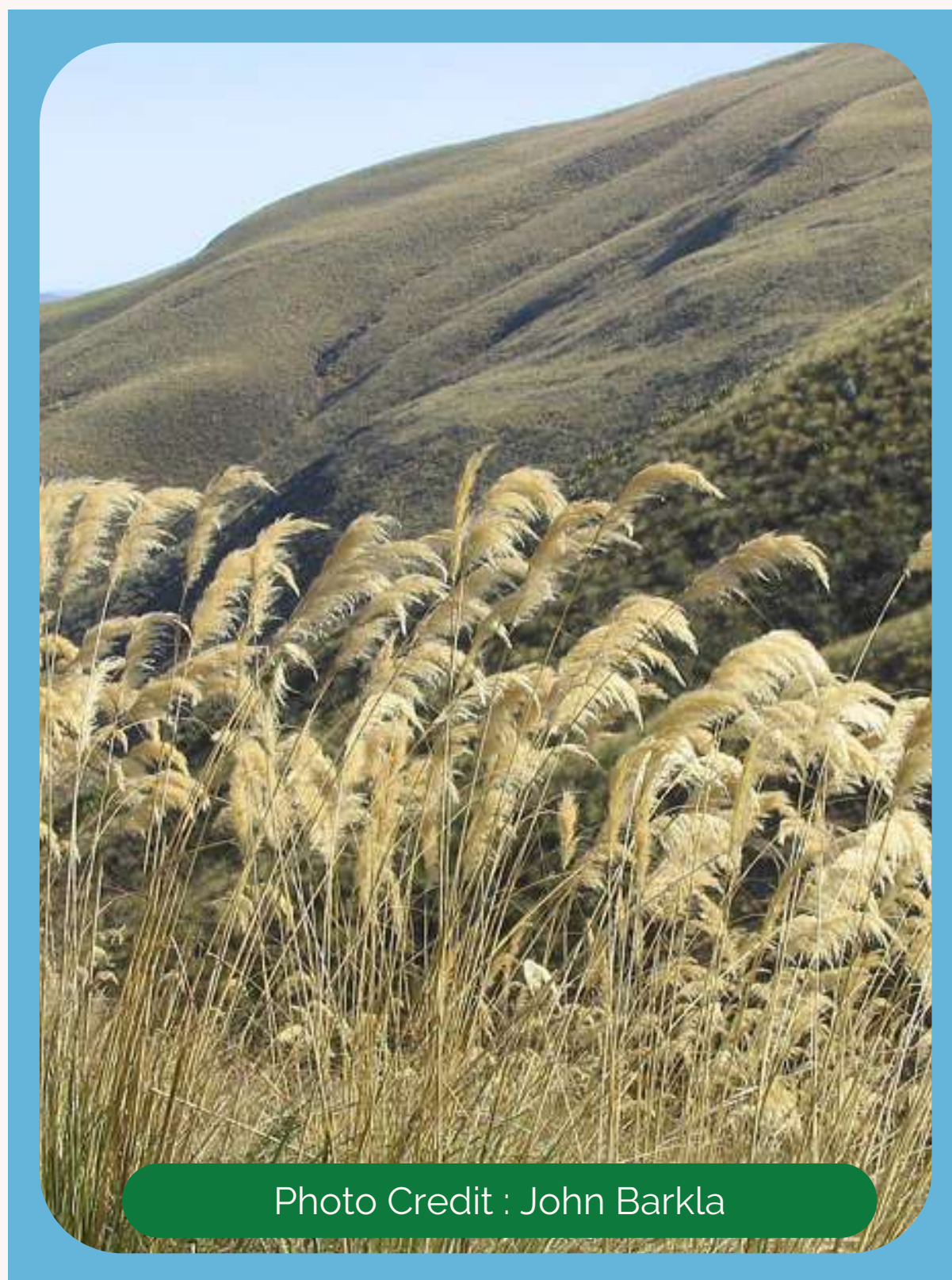


Photo Credit : John Barkla

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Unlike other grasses, these have no indented midrib. Wide leaf blades with long wispy tips. Lime and yellow shades. Leaves may wrap around the stem at their base.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

This perennial, evergreen plant is one of five similar looking species, *richardii* is the South Island species. Leaves are waxy and difficult to break - one way to confirm their identity.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 3m/1.5m

GROWTH FORM

Grass

LOCATION

Open situation is best, tolerates wet soil and temporary flooding, hardy and adaptable.

RAUTAHI (1)

Carex geminata

(Cutty Grass)



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Slightly wider leaves with less orange in the mass than *Carex secta*. Indented clear midrib common for *Carex* species.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

A 'cutty grass'. A yellow-green to bright-green sedge found throughout Aotearoa. Flowering from October-November.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 1.2m/.5m

GROWTH FORM

Sedge

LOCATION

Suits wet, boggy, freshwater areas and banks.

PŪREI

Carex secta



Photo Credit : www.wai-ora.nz



Photo Credit : Wayne Bennett

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Straight and narrow leaf blades. Seedlings often more orange than adult plants. Indented clear midrib is common.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Found throughout Aotearoa. This *Carex* has weeping, yellowish-green leaves. Mature plants can have trunk like bases. Flowering October - November.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 1m/0.5m

GROWTH FORM

Sedge

LOCATION

Best in wetlands and boggy soil, open situation. Can be planted in saturated soil. Adult plants tolerate flooding.

TATAKI

Carex trifida
(Muttonbird Sedge)



Photo Credit : Headford Propagators



Photo Credit : www.citscihub.nz

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

A broad-leaved *Carex*. Very long, pale green leaves with only the most gradual tapering. The clear indented mid-rib is typical of *Carex* species.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Found on the coast of the southern South Island and on offshore islands. At seabird nest sites and seal breeding grounds, hence the common name 'Muttonbird Sedge'. Blue undersides.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 1m/0.5m

GROWTH FORM

Sedge

LOCATION

Coastal locations. Wet or dry soil. Not found under canopy.

PUTAPUTAWĒTĀ

Carpodetus serratus

(Marbleleaf)



Photo Credit : John Barkla

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Branches very thin and bendy. Small leaves are a wider tear shape with fully serrated angular margins. Venation is obvious on the bright-green upper leaves, creating a distinctive geometric pattern.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

This small tree loses its divaricating branches as it ages. It has rough bark and bunches of white flowers. The adult leaves are much larger (between 4-6cm long) and become rigid.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 10m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Best in moderate conditions, moist soil, partial shade, some shelter. Seen growing well in damp old-growth valleys in Otago.

TĀTARAHEKE

Coprosma acerosa

(Sand Coprosma)



Photo Credit : John Barkla



Photo Credit : Lisa Forester

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Woody, flexible, divaricating and sprawling with clusters of elongated and narrow tiny leaves. Bark reddish. Twigs orange, slightly fuzzy at the tip.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Yellowish shrub. Leaves are narrow and in pairs. The underside of leaves marked with a dark line in the middle on the underside. Tiny flowers, white fruit.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 1m/1m

GROWTH FORM

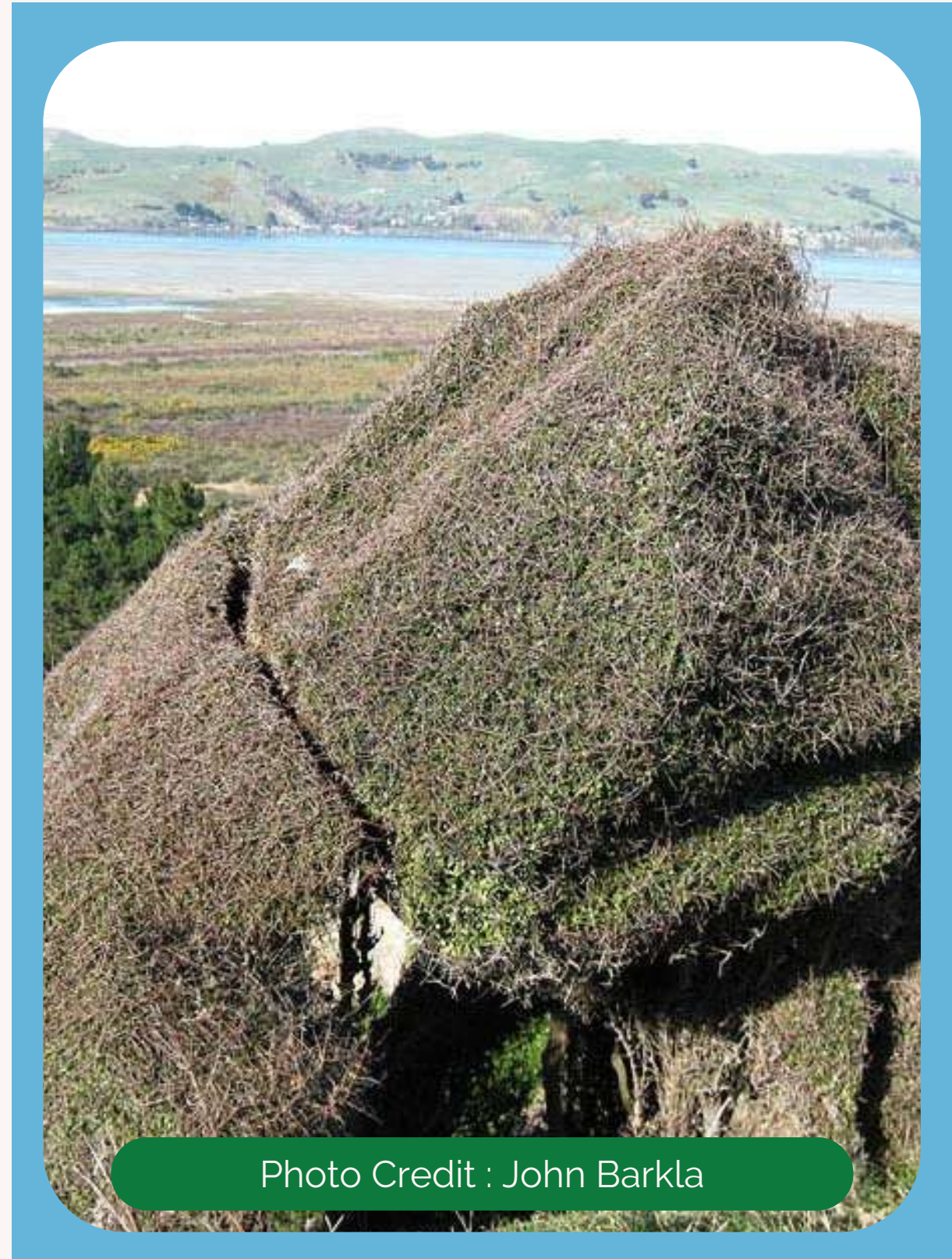
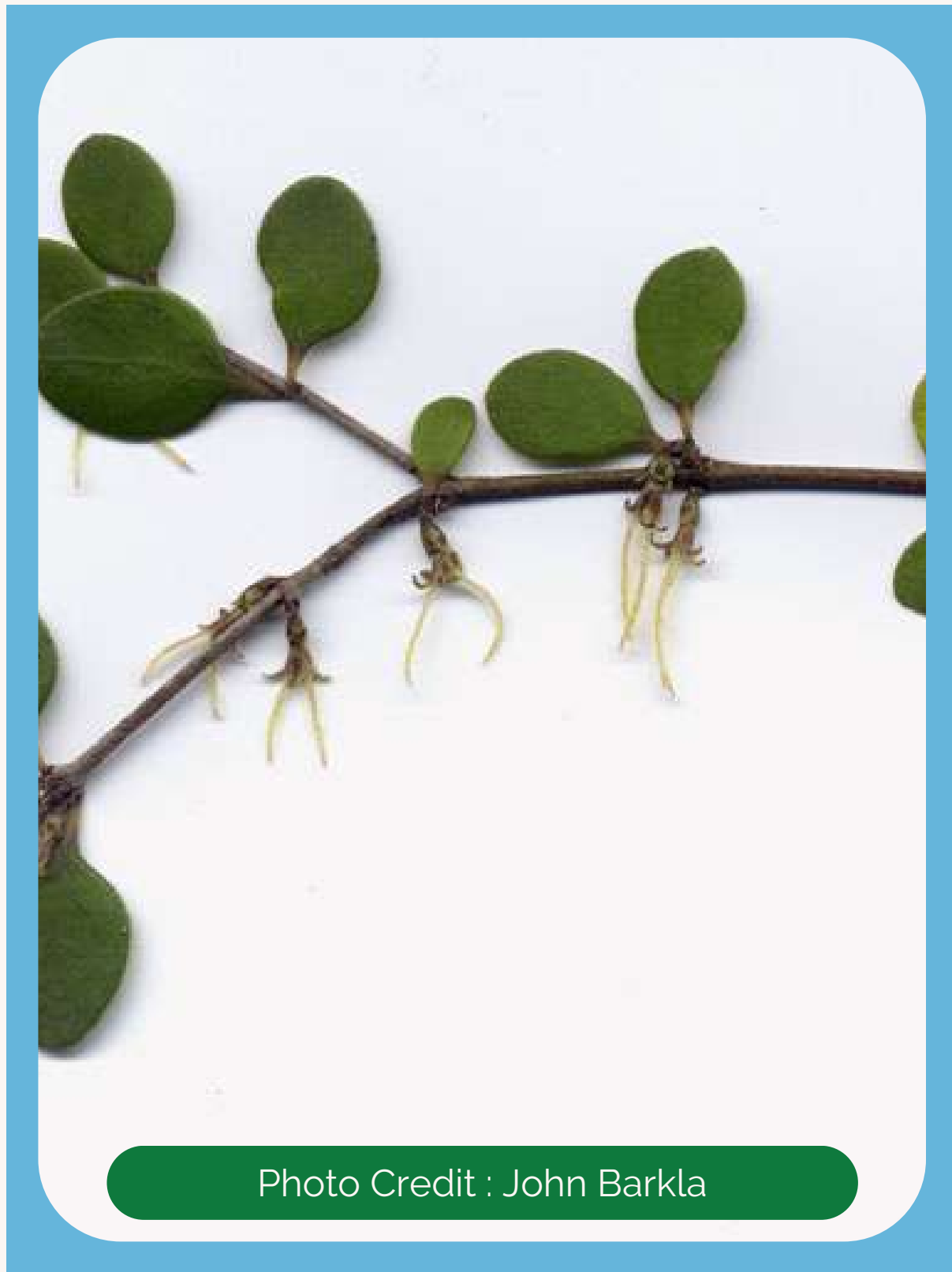
Sprawling shrub

LOCATION

Best in sand dunes, open situation, free from competition.

MIKIMIKI (3)

Coprosma crassifolia



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Shrub with reddish, divaricating branches and pairs of leaves that are small, thick, glossy, round/oval, and white underneath. Leaves 6-10mm long, with very small hairs around the margin.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

The white leaf undersides allows this plant to be distinguished from other spp. *C. obconica* leaves also have pale undersides, but its leaves are pointed at the end. Home for arboreal lizards.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 4m/1.5m

GROWTH FORM

Shrubby tree

LOCATION

Plant anywhere coastal, up to 600m, from sandy to rocky locations.

MIKIMIKI (1/3)

Coprosma propinqua

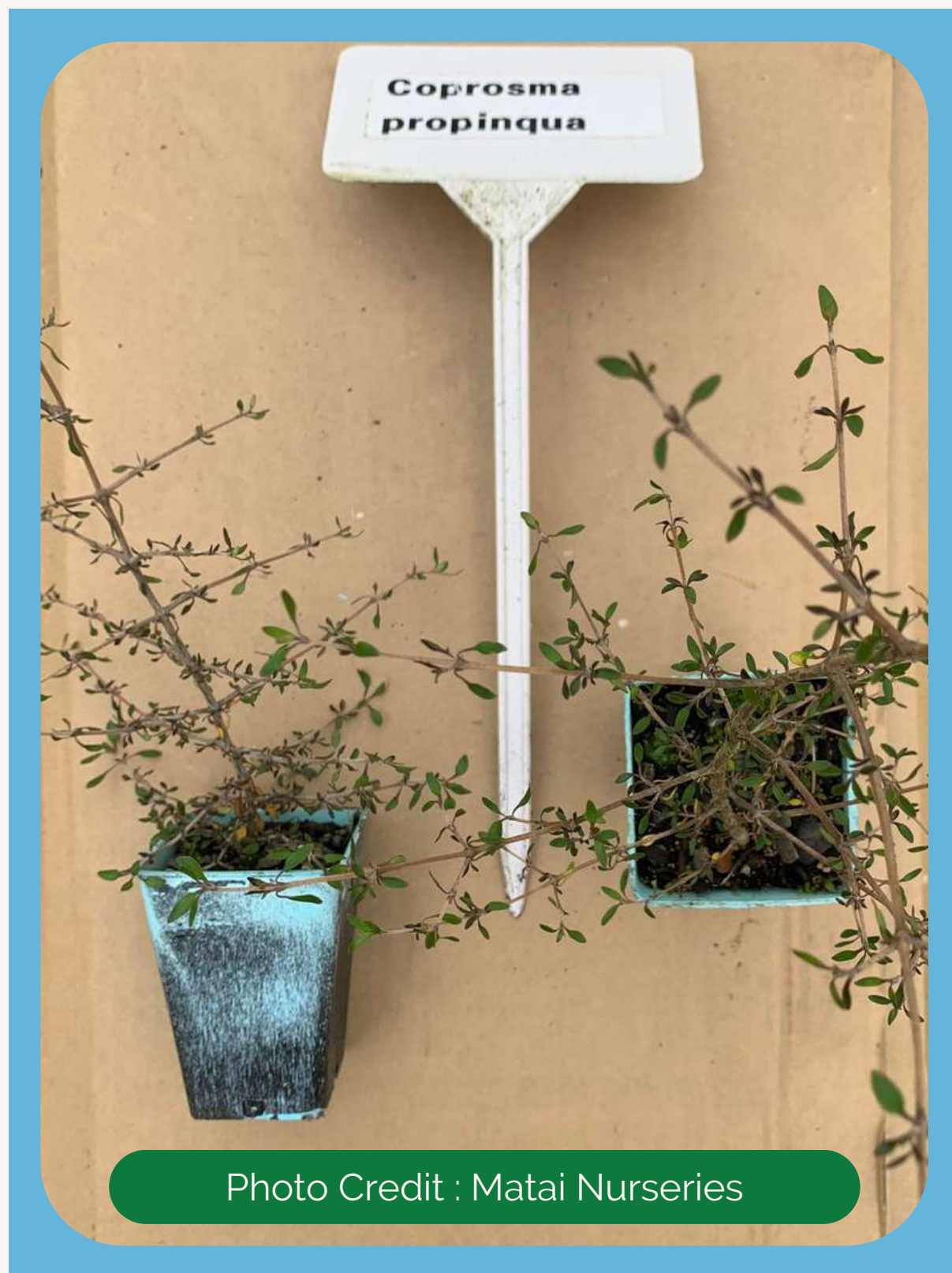


Photo Credit : Matai Nurseries



Photo Credit : John Barkla

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Stout stem and branches, fairly rigid with orange, grey, or dark brown hue. Leaves opposite, in clusters, tiny and narrow.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Common shrub (in some coastal areas it is merely a low-growing mound) with divaricating branches. Green flowers and pale blue fruit.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 6m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Shrubby tree

LOCATION

Common in scrub, along stream banks, in stony places and swampy forest from sea level to 460 metres. Tolerates a variety of soils, is hardy and evergreen.

Coprosma rigida



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Strong-stemmed shrub with small oval leaves. Leaves are widest towards the tip, where you can see tiny hairs if you have a lens.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Bushy, large and divaricating. Clusters of small oval leaves on orangey - red twigs (red when older). Leaves have a red border. Green flowers and white to yellow fruit.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 4m/1.5m

GROWTH FORM

Shrubby tree

LOCATION

Often found in shady, damp forested sites and on river banks. Though can thrive in most locations.

Coprosma rubra



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Stems are similar to *C. crassifolia* but entirely of brick/ochre red tone. Leaves are a mixture of round, tear-shaped, and elongated, with rounded or pointed tips.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Rare small bushy shrub with reddish bark and fuzzy twigs. Leaves thin, usually 10-15mm long but up to 2.5cm long. Fruit yellowish white.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 4m/1.5m

GROWTH FORM

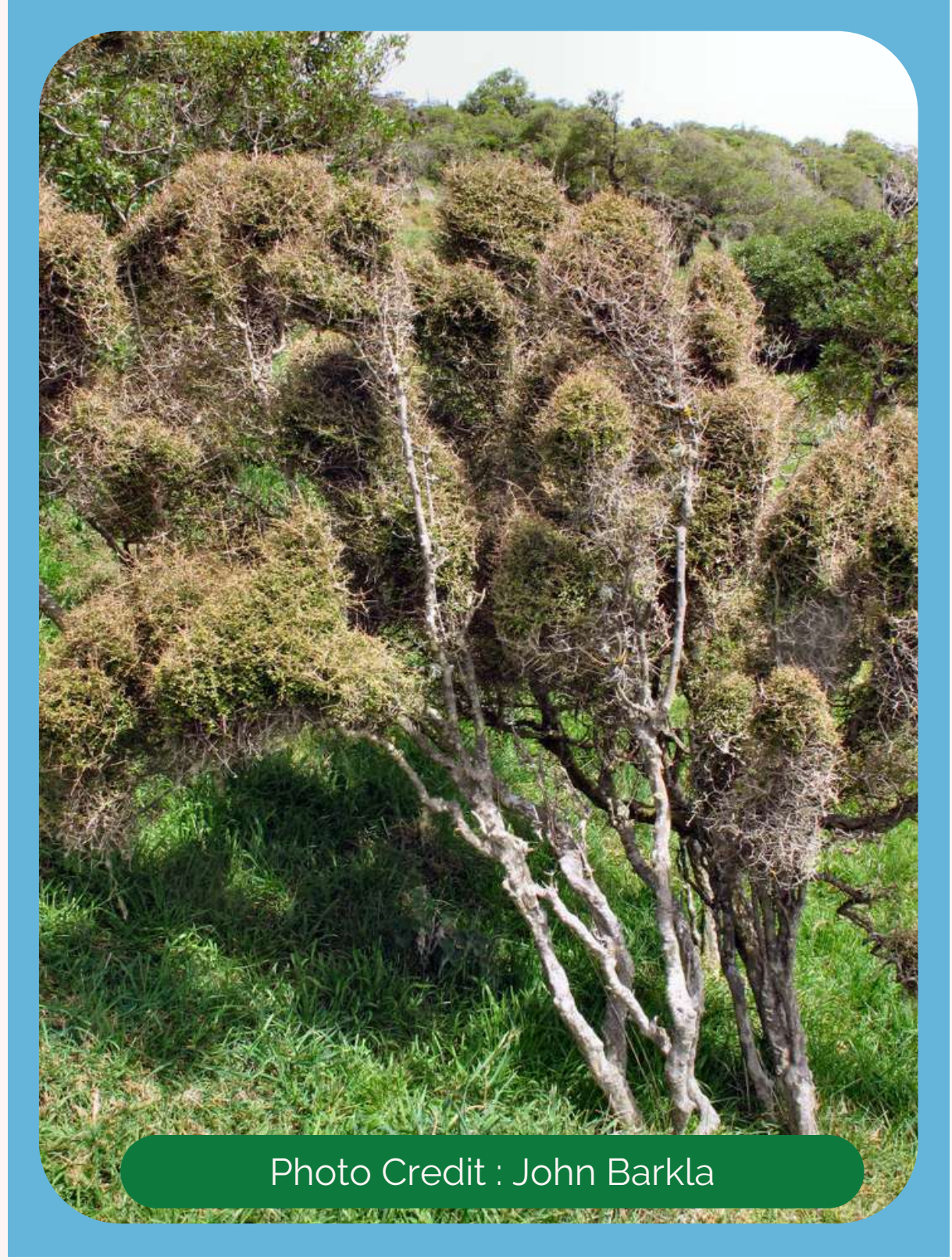
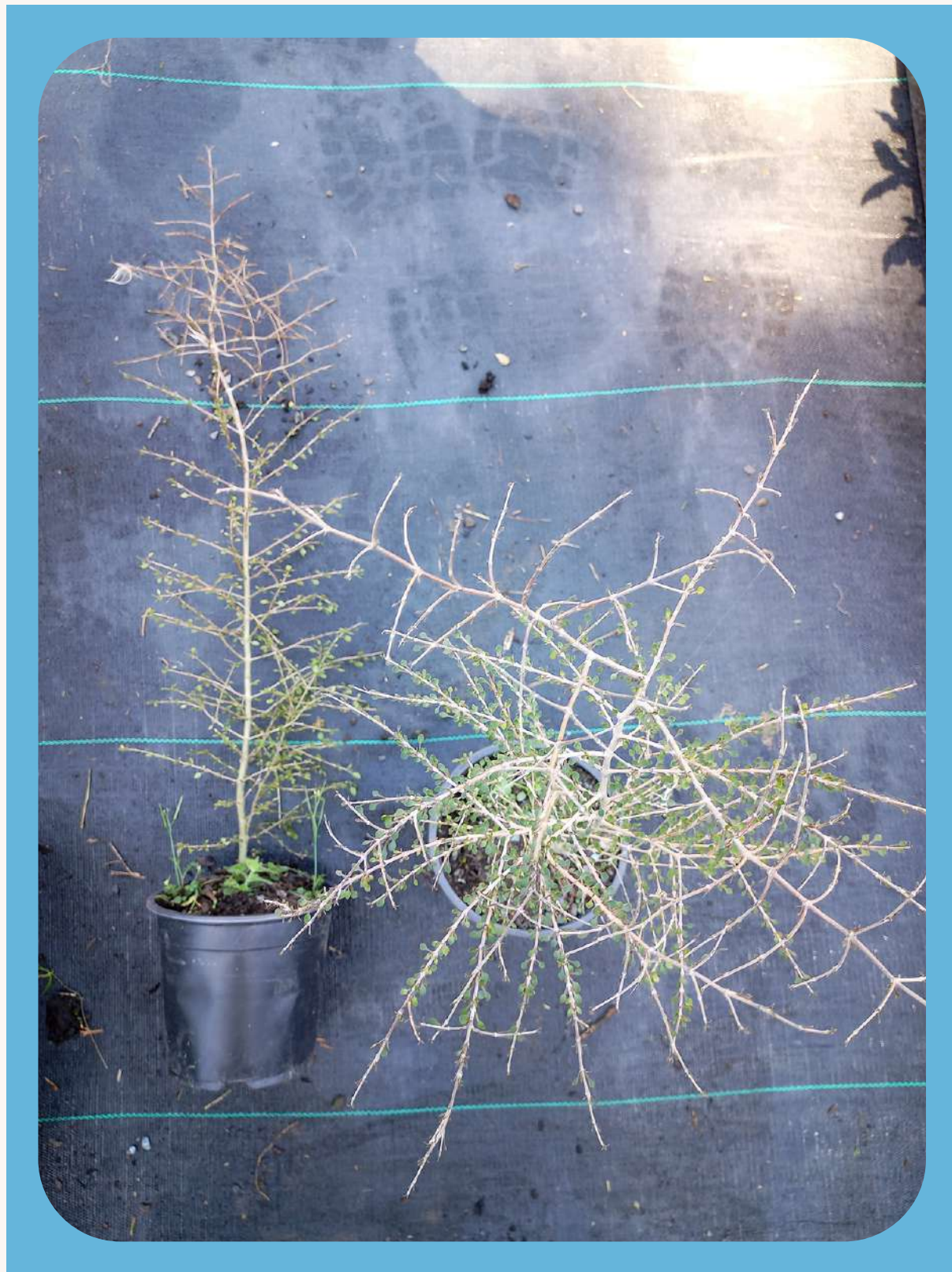
Shrubby tree

LOCATION

Should be planted in free draining but moist, fertile soil.

MIKIMIKI (2)

Coprosma virescens



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Divaricating branches. Pairs of small, pointed, oval leaves on flattened orange to olive green leaf stalks.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Rare. Bark greenish, smooth and knobbled. Fruit is typically white with black dots - the green seeds inside give rise to the name 'virescens' meaning 'becoming green'

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 3m/1.5m

GROWTH FORM

Shrubby tree

LOCATION

Thrives in full sun but will tolerate moderate shade. Should be planted in a free draining but moist, fertile soil.

TĪ KOUKA

Cordyline australis
(Cabbage Tree)



Photo Credit : John Sawyer

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Yellowish, rather straight and stiff leaves with contrasting midribs.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

A palm-like tree with bunched leaves that are narrow and long with yellow midribs. Leaves are unique but most similar to flax if anything. Bunches of fragrant small white flowers.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 20m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Slender tree

LOCATION

Best in damp soils in full sun, thrives on wetland margins and open banks.

KAHIKATEA

Dacrycarpus darcydioides

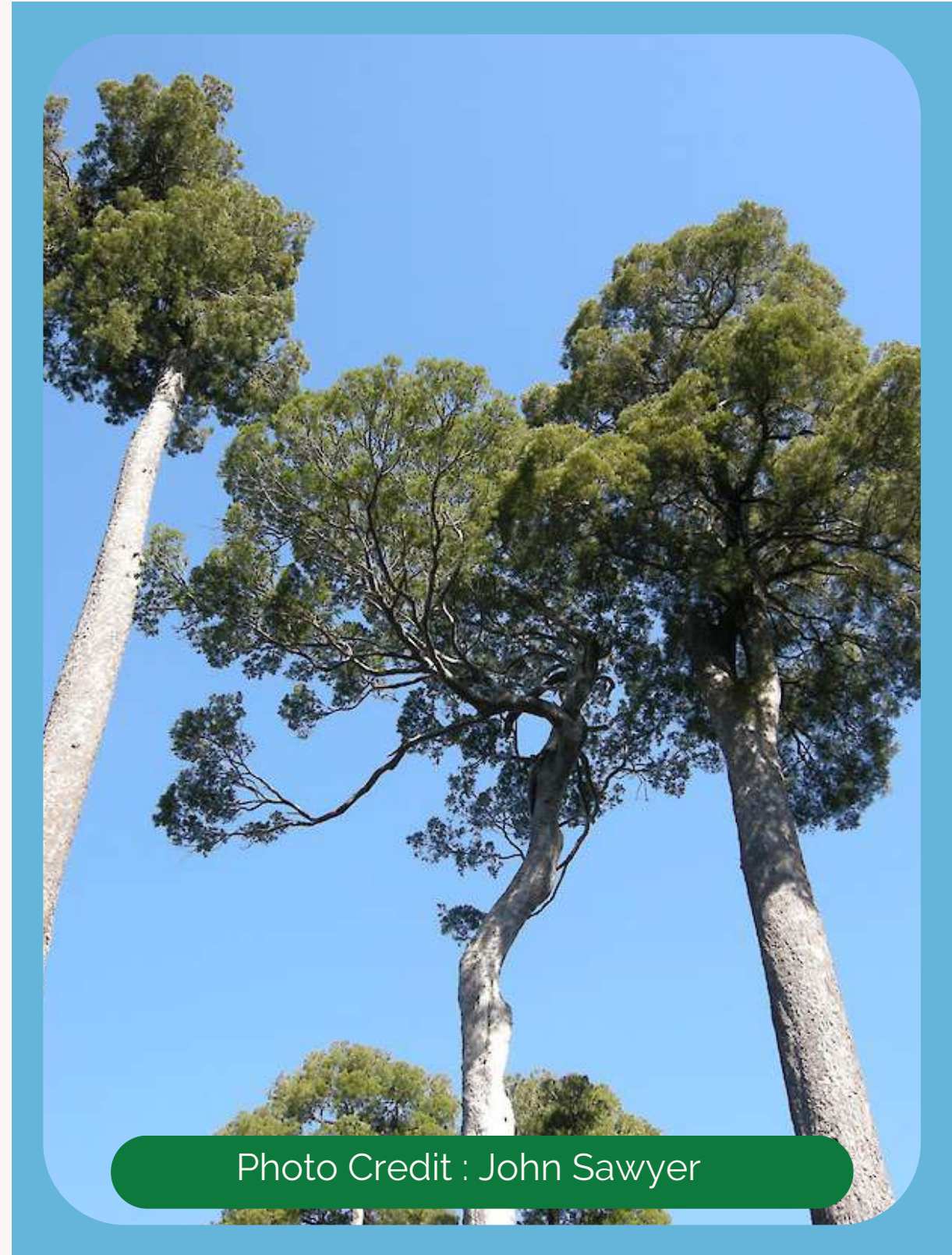


Photo Credit : John Sawyer

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Reddish brown stick densely covered in little scaly needles. Or spreading, green, flat, needle-tipped fronds with most little leaves curved to one side.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Stout conifer, often fluted and buttressed. Bark grey to dark-grey that peels in thick flakes. Branches appear halfway up the trunk or higher. Subadults grow in a distinctive columnar form.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 60m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Best in damp, poorly drained soil. Once established it can thrive on flooding in either fresh or salt water locations.

RIMU

Dacrydium cupressinum

(Red Pine)



Photo Credit : www.tawapou.co.nz



Photo Credit : John Sawyer

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Yellowish green, soft. Similar to seedlings of *Manoao colensoi*. Differentiated by the finer, more abundant dull leaves, when compared to the glossy red-green leaves of the Rimu.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Uncommon in the eastern South Island. Adult Rimu has a bare trunk for 3/4 of its height. Bark is flaky and dark brown. Leaves can be orange, bronze-green, dark green or red-green.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 50m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Well draining soil and sunlight or semi-shade.
Lowland and montane forest.

wiwi(1)

Ficinia nodosa
(Knobby Club Rush)

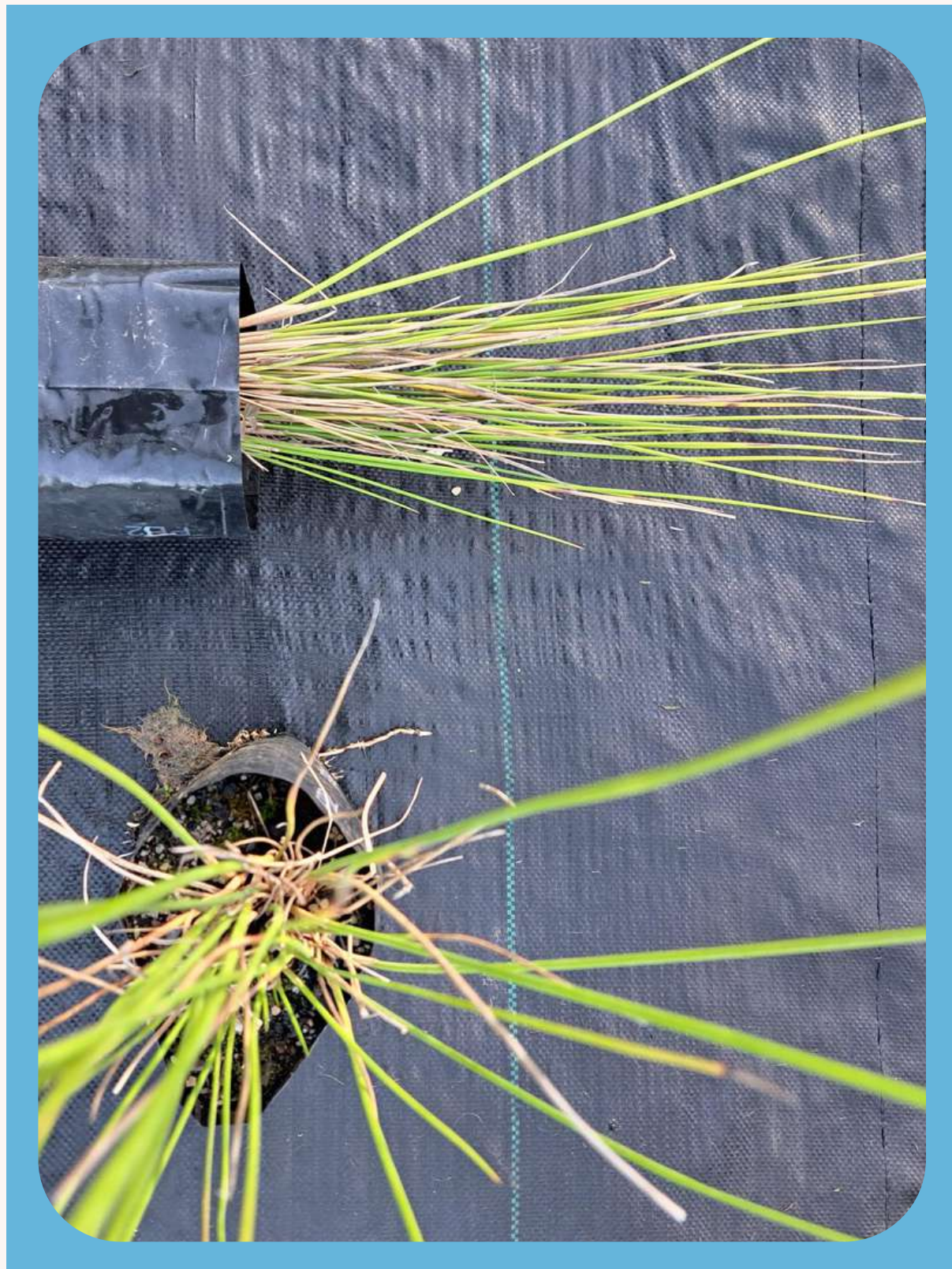


Photo Credit : Jeremy R Rolfe

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Similar to *Juncus spp.*, but more vibrant green, possibly with a touch of yellow. Subtly more slender, too.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Woody rhizomes. Rigid, erect, woody stems. White flowers, from Sep - Dec. Flowerheads are spherical - a distinctive feature.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 1m/0.5m

GROWTH FORM

Sedge

LOCATION

Best in sand, including dunes. Open situation. Can colonise rock-rich open spots elsewhere. Salt-tolerant and quite tolerant of various soils and moisture in general. Often found in wetlands.

KŌTUKUTUKU

Fuchsia excorticata

(Tree Fuchsia)



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Leaves are simple alternate, medium-sized, thin, veins on both upper and undersides. Leaves are sometimes glossy, have pointed tips, pale underside. Sometimes with purple or stained leaves.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Woody; bark light brown, falling off the tree, hence the common name 'Paper Tree'. Deciduous in the South. Bright green flowers change to red as they age. Flowers can grow from the trunk.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 15m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Wide branching tree

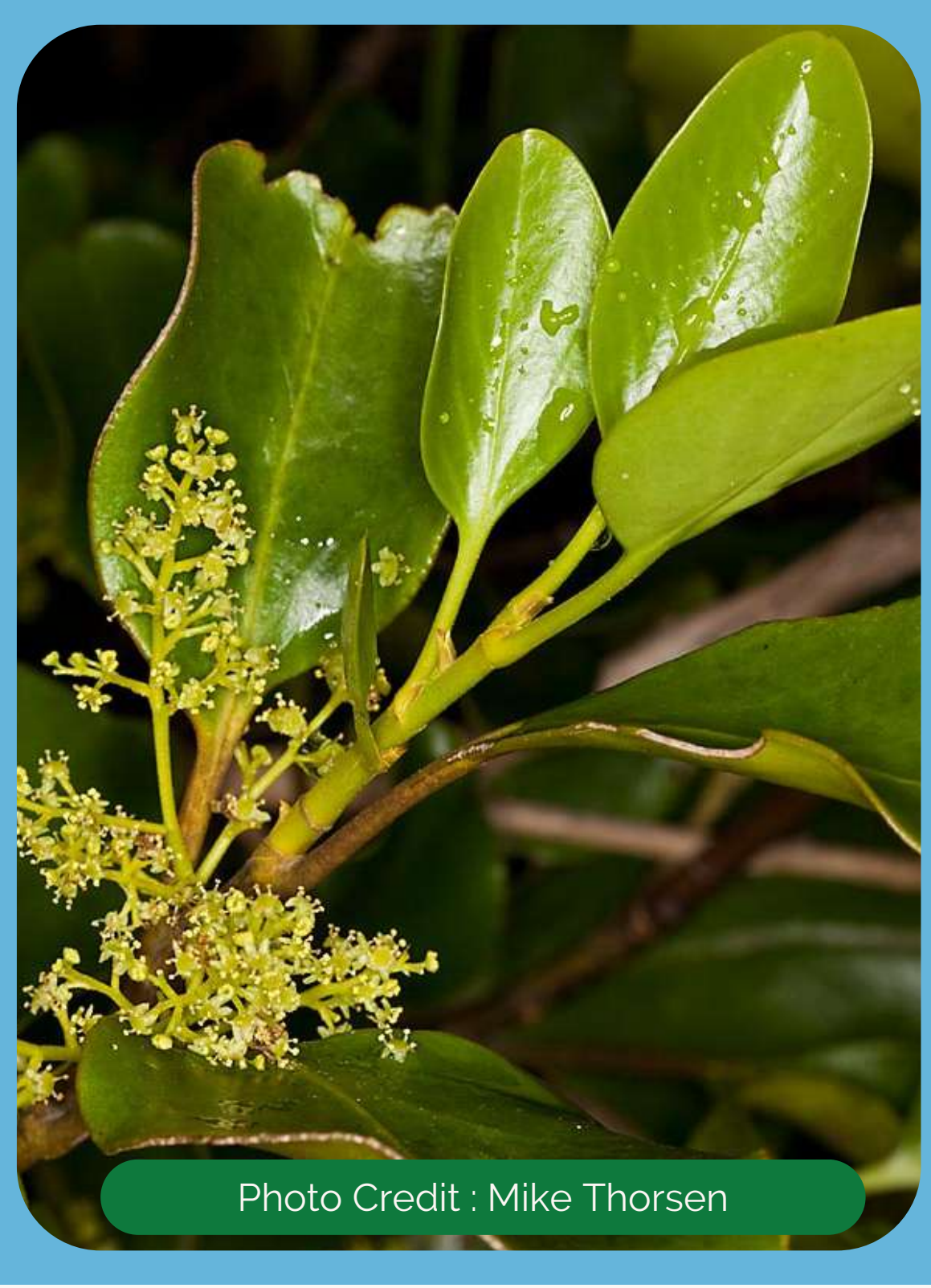
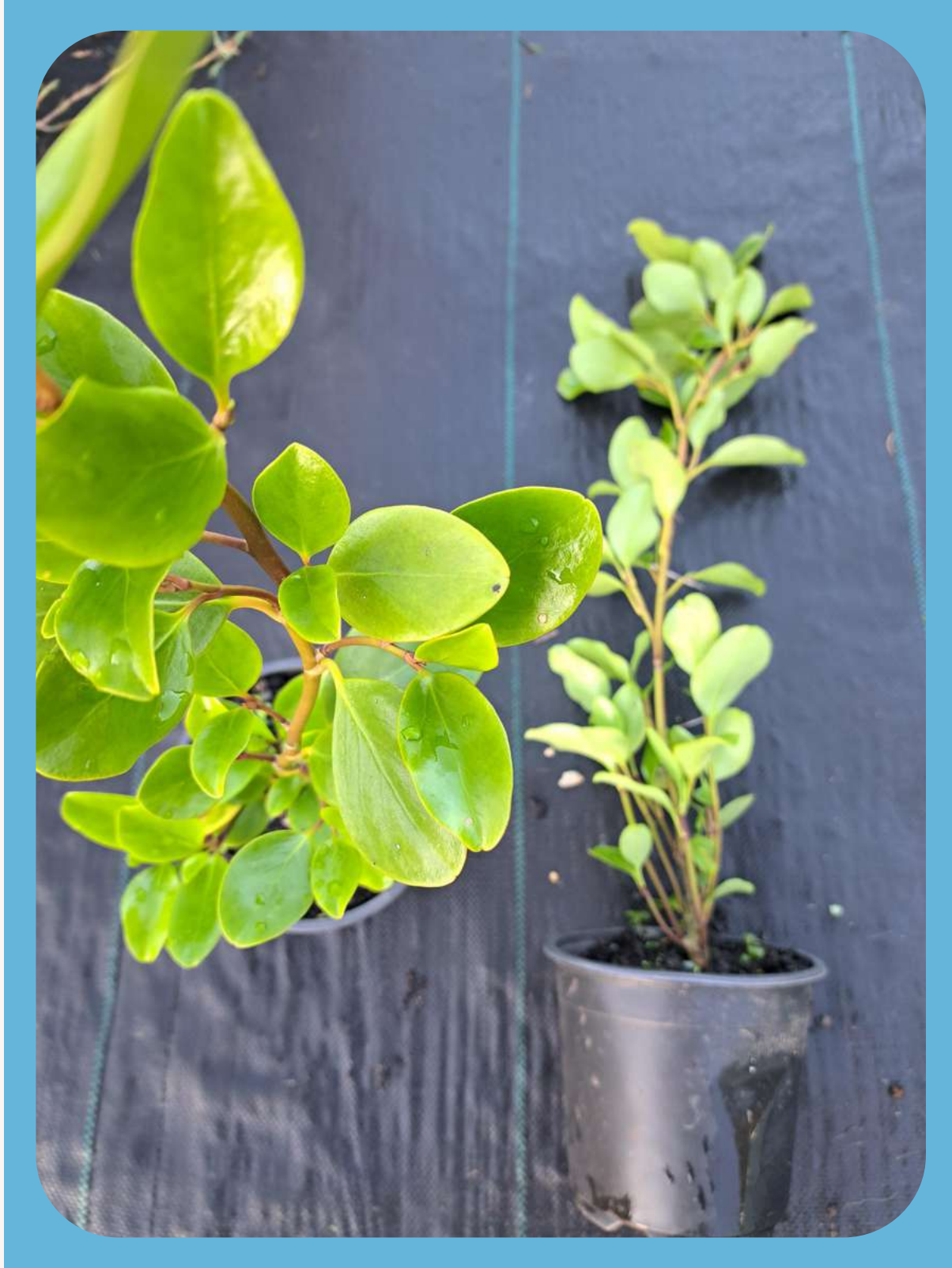
LOCATION

Best in damp and sheltered situation. It appears to favour openings, including banks, slips, margins, and exposed faces, though, which places it into the same microhabitat as seven-finger.

KĀPUKA

Griselinia littoralis

(Broadleaf)



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Simple alternate oval leaves are bright to dark green. They are glossy and slightly leathery on top and pale underneath. Sometimes the leaves are pointed.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Shrubby tree with a dark, rough trunk bearing glossy, thick, green leaves on yellowish stems. Small yellow to cream bunches of flowers. Dark purple fruit.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 16m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

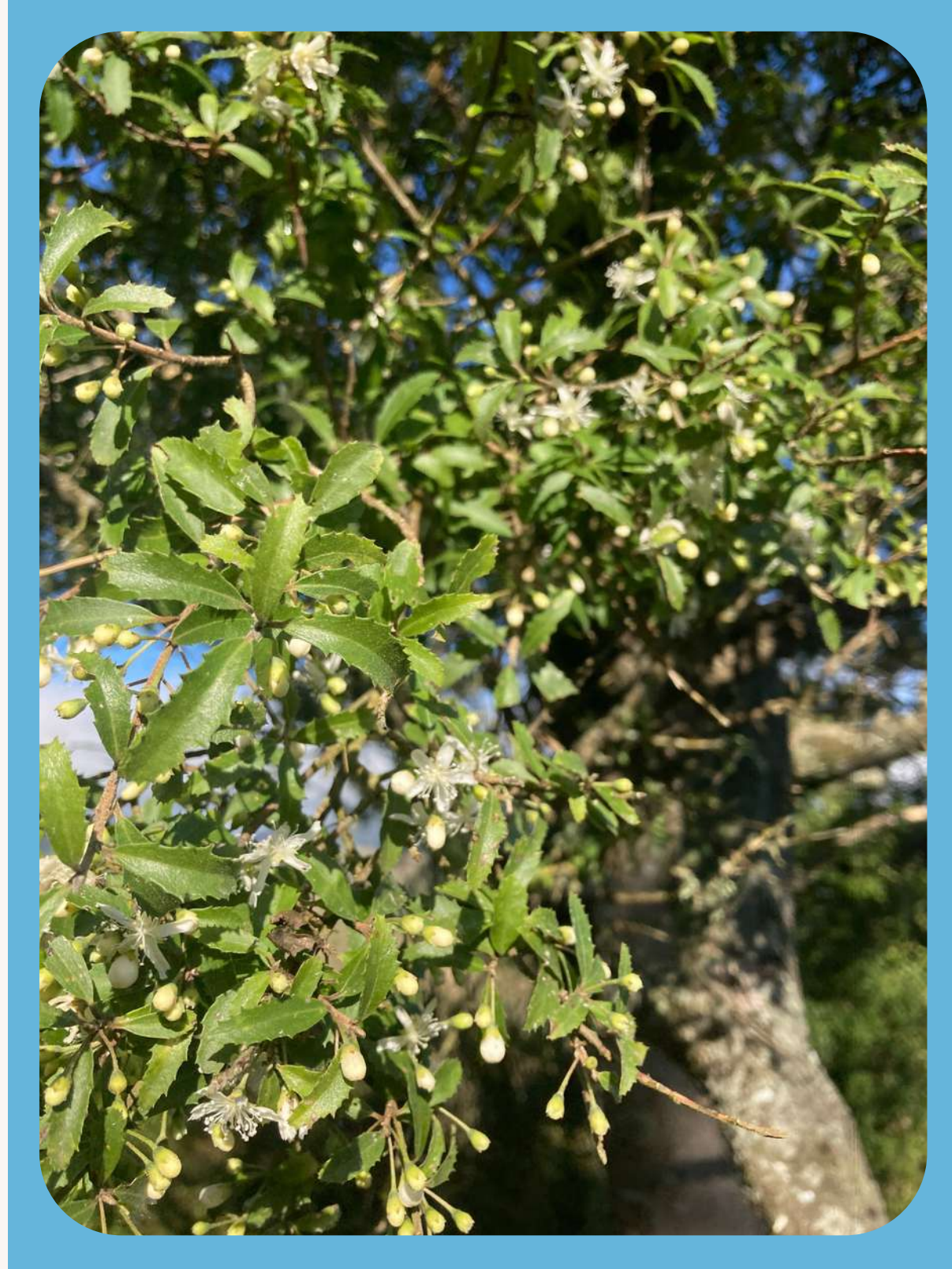
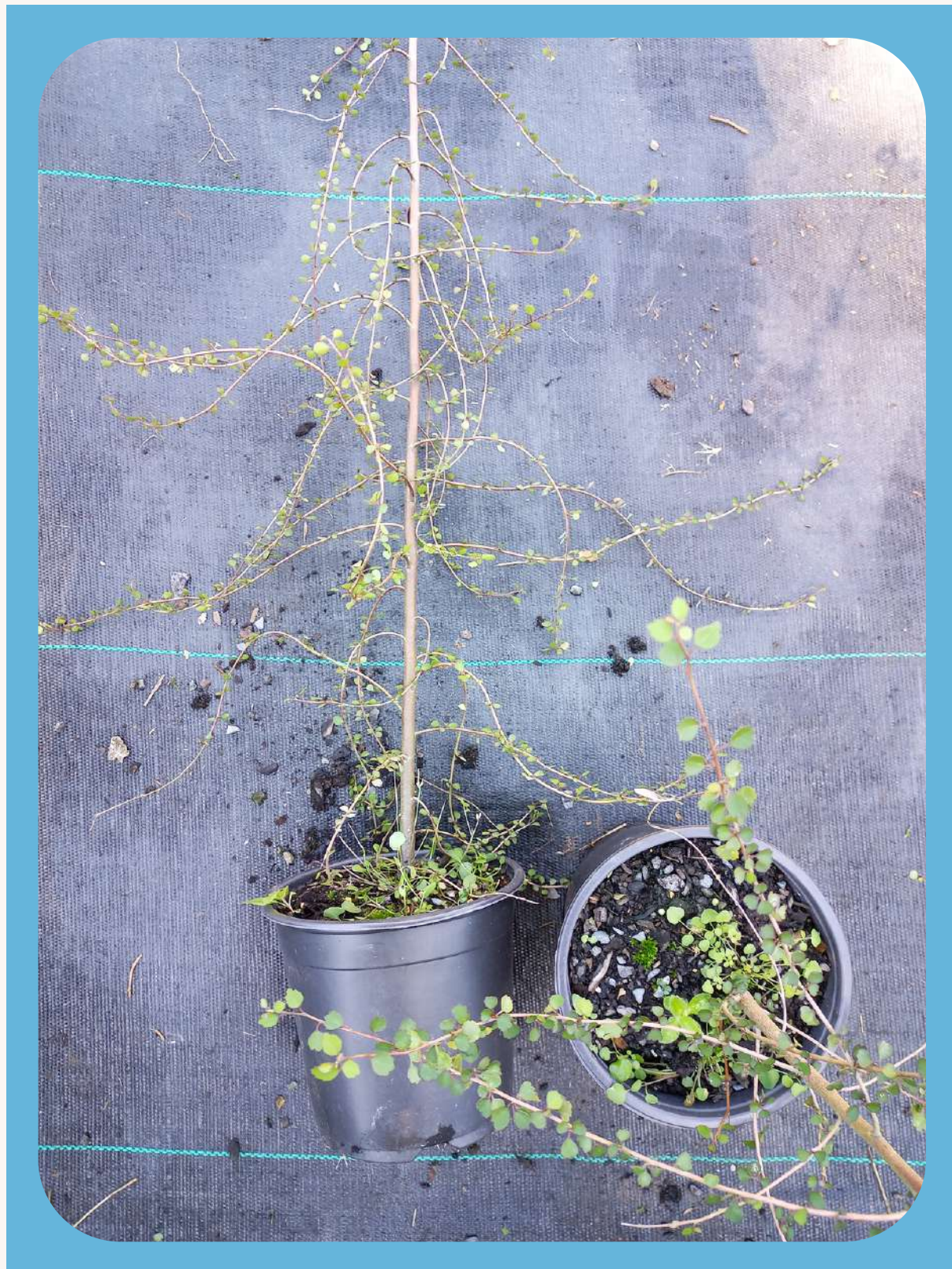
LOCATION

Best in well-drained soil and full sun, but tolerates a range of conditions. If possible, keep away from excessive wetness.

HOUHI PURUHI

Hoheria angustifolia

(Narrow-Leaved Lacebark)



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Young plants are possibly tangly and very thin, yet woody. Juvenile leaves are tiny, inverse tear-shaped, with even-margined tapered base, and a wider tip. They are multi-toothed and irregular.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Soft-wooded tree with grey bark and bunches of white flowers that form dry 'winged' papery fruits. Host for *Tāpia/Tupeia antarctica*/White Mistletoe which is 'At Risk - Declining'.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 18m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

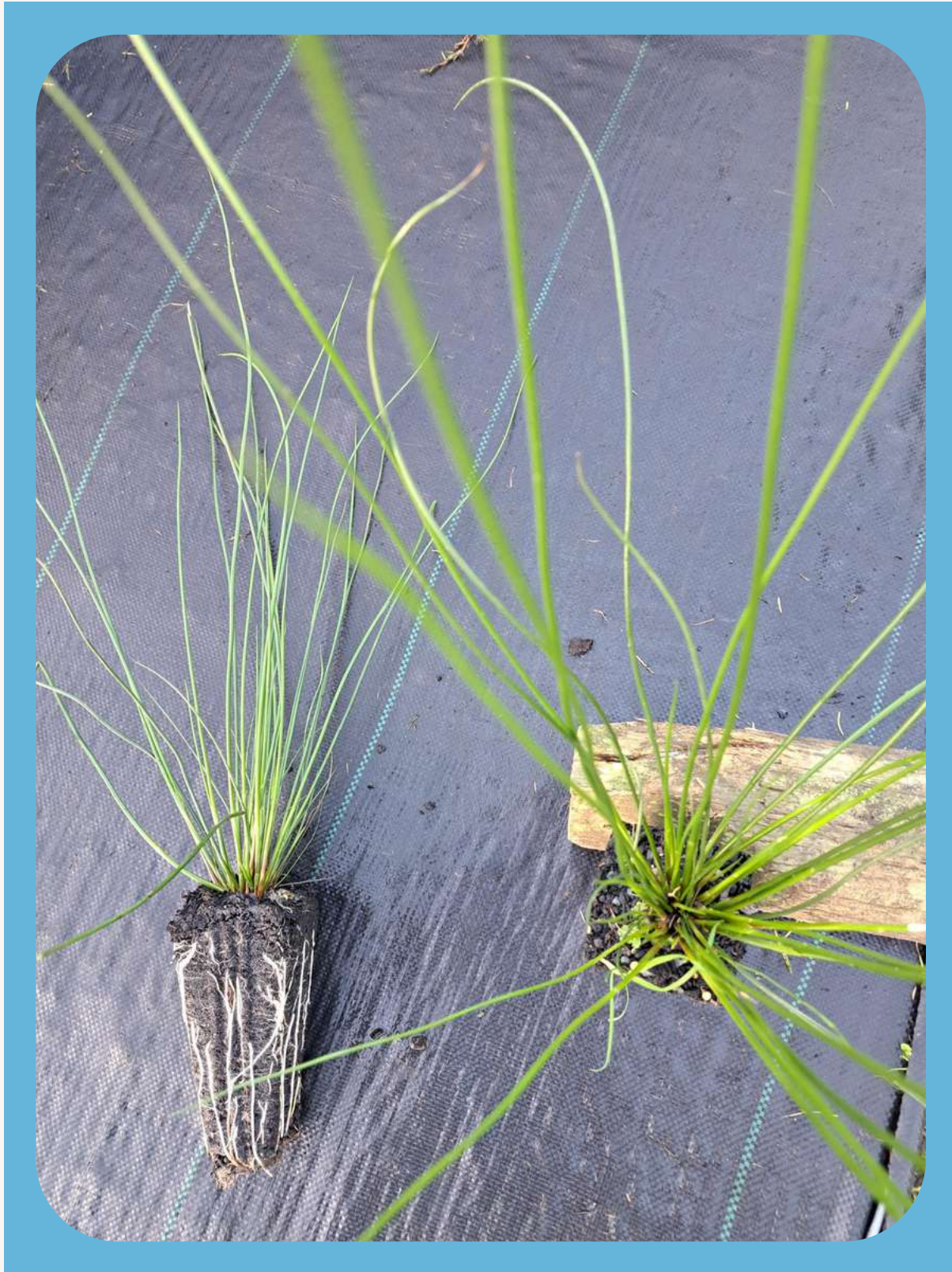
LOCATION

Found in lowland forest alongside kānuka and other quick growing, shelter-providing, first generation revegetative plants. Hardy.

Wīwī (2)

Juncus edgariae

(Edgar's Rush)



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Tufts of (usually) dark green stems, round in cross-section. Flowerheads grow off stem sides, with thin branchlets bearing clusters of tiny flowers or fruit.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

This is the most abundant rush species in New Zealand. Distinguished from the other indigenous species by the flowers clustered at the end of the branchlet.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 2.5m/0.5m

GROWTH FORM

Rush

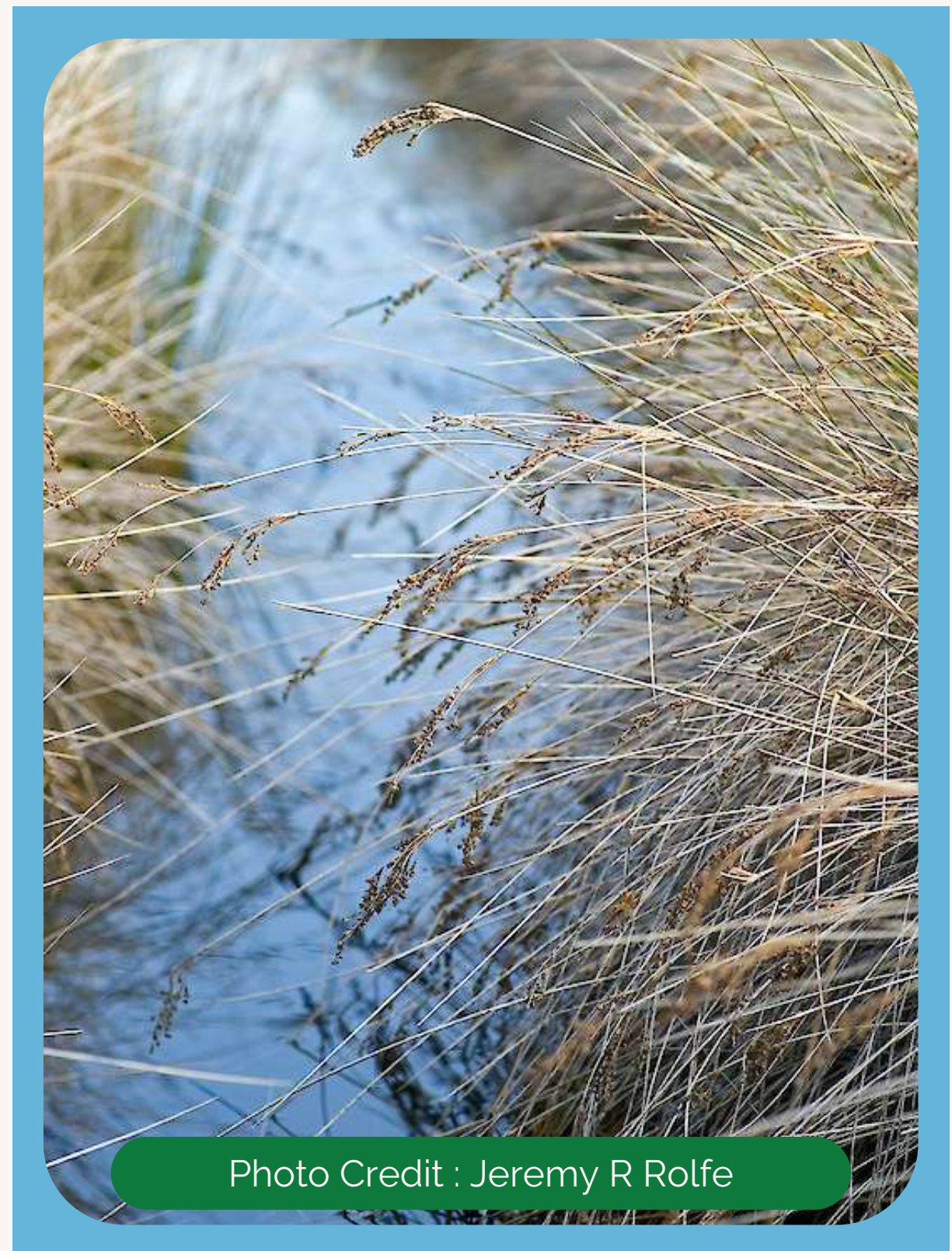
LOCATION

Wetland margins and seasonally wet sites, shrubland, pasture - from coast to 1600m high.

wīwī (3)

Juncus kraussii

(Sea Rush)



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Brownish rush tufts. Flowerheads grow off stem sides, though are relatively large and may seem to extend from tip ends, at a glance. Flowerheads are not dense, but composed of small clusters.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Often found growing alongside *Juncus acutus* L. - an aggressive, introduced species that has sharp-tipped stems.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 1.2m/0.5m

GROWTH FORM

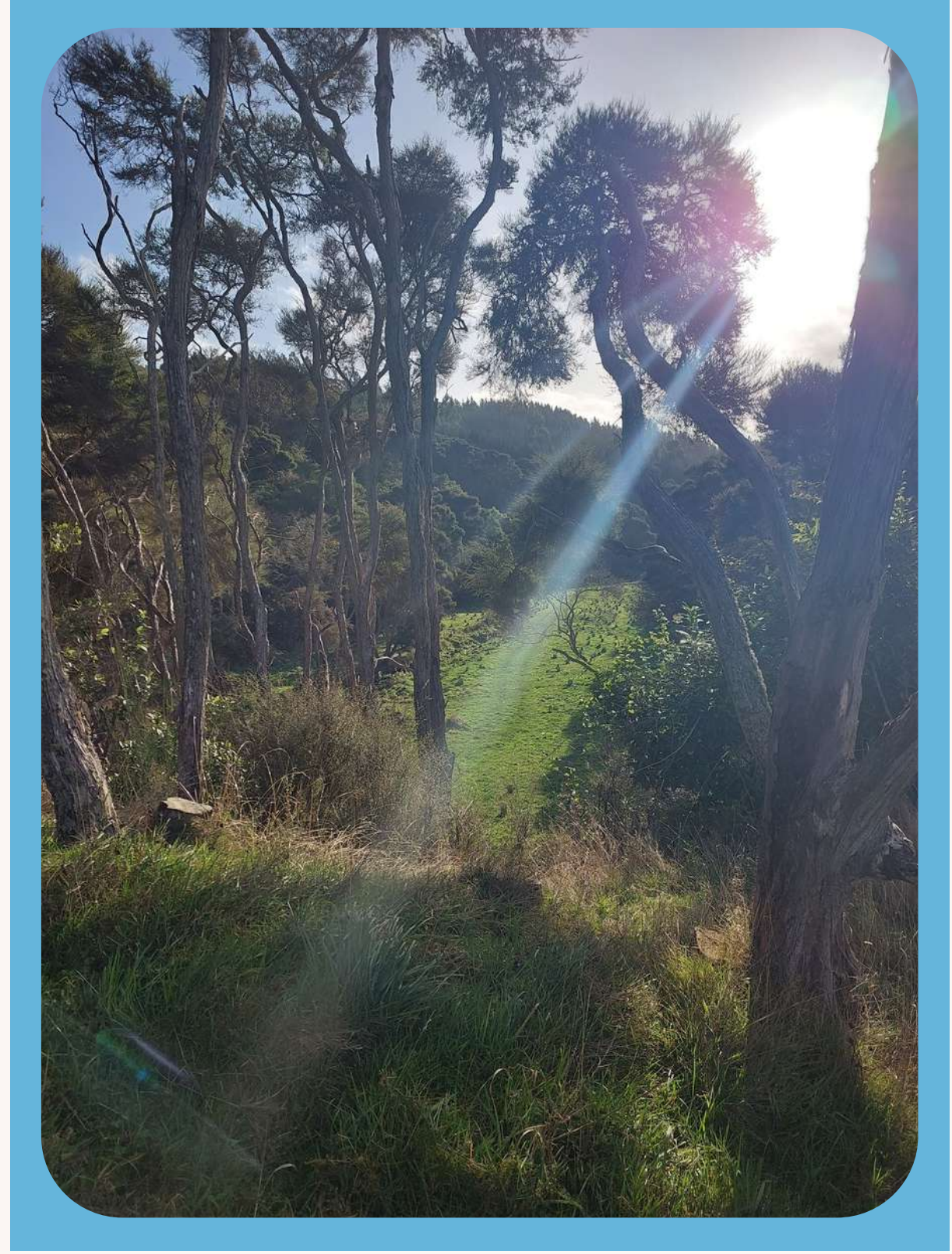
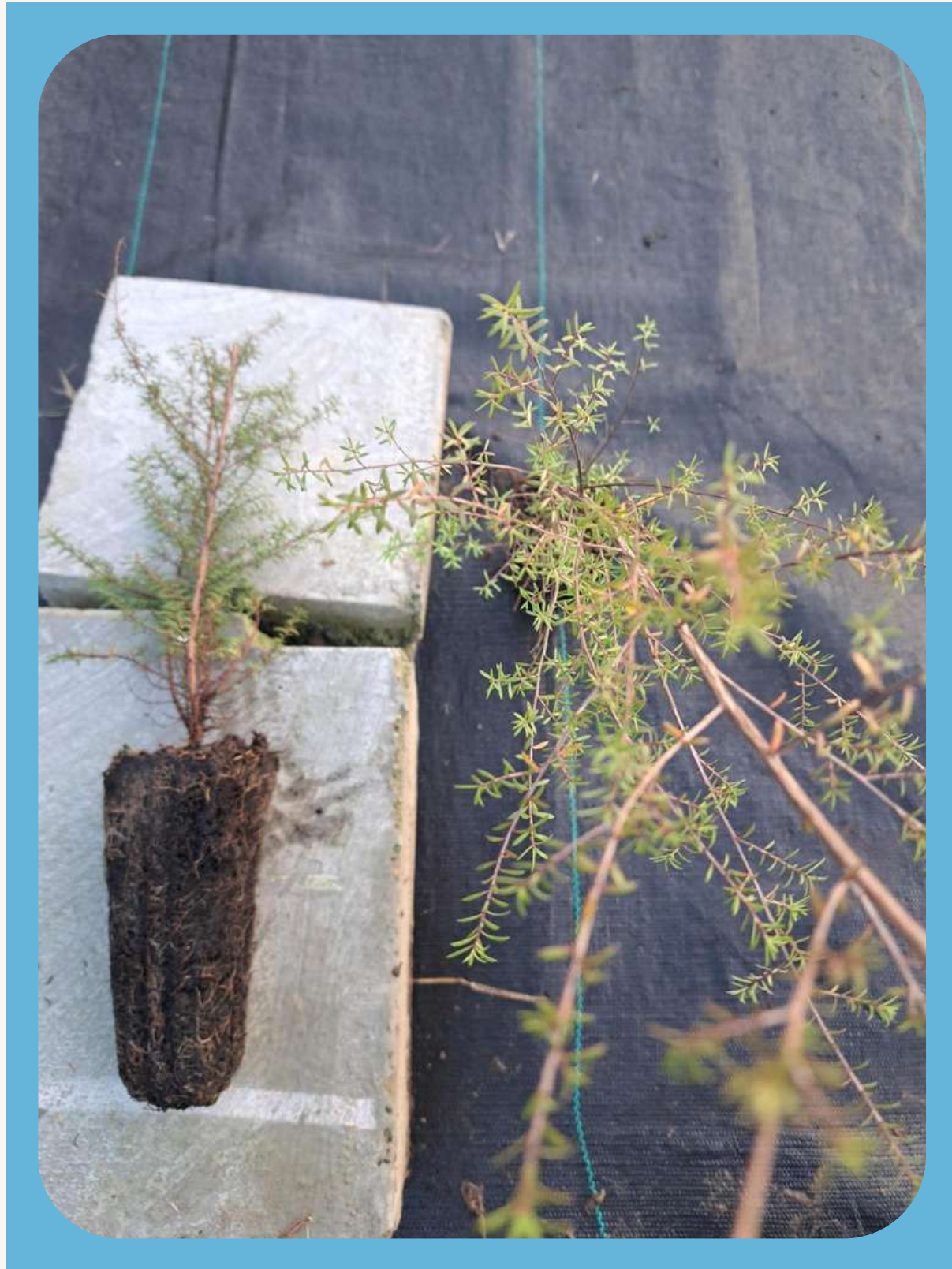
Rush

LOCATION

Found in wet locations such as saltmarsh, lagoon and brackish stream margins. Tolerates inundation.

KĀNUKA

Kunzea robusta



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

"Kānuka is kind", e.g. not prickly like the 'mean mānuka'. Leaves are linear, fine, soft. Wood of seedlings is sometimes orange-red.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

A common tree in Aotearoa. Though often confused with mānuka, it grows much taller. Seasonally covered in clusters of small white flowers. Bark at base of adult tree can be easily removed in strips.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 30m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Dry and very dry soils. Avoid planting too many or densely if you want other species to establish at the same place and time.

MĀNUKA

Leptospermum scoparium

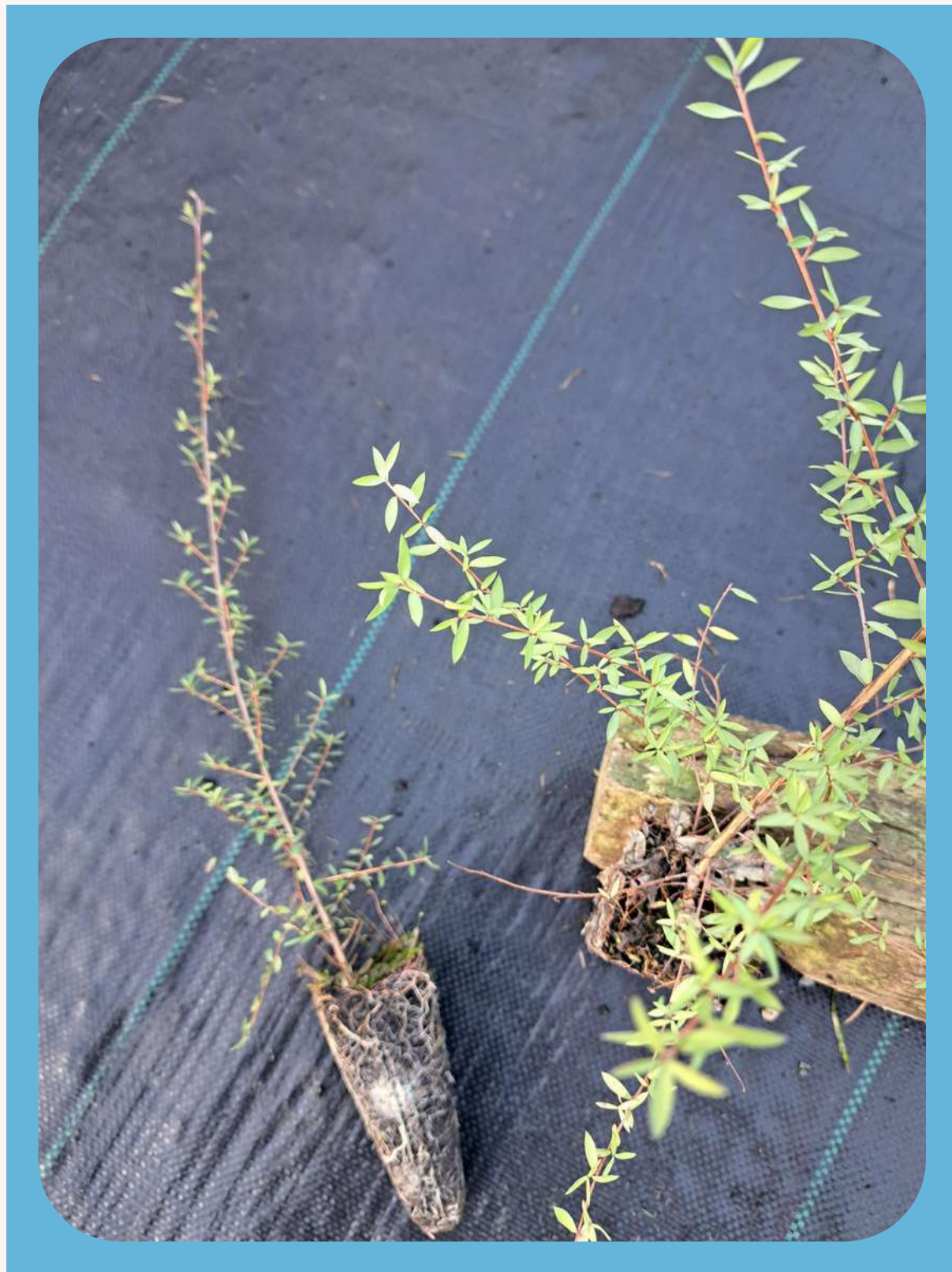


Photo Credit : John Sawyer

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

"Mānuka is mean" e.g. prickly. An interesting fact: Kirimoko is the correct spelling for Kilmog Hill. Kirimoko is the South Island name for mānuka ([www.https://kahurumanu.co.nz/atlas](https://kahurumanu.co.nz/atlas)).

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Shrubby tree with grey, flaky bark.
Leaves leathery (almost woody), very dark green, sharply pointed.
Flowers pink or wholly pink, white or dark red.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 5m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

A wide range of conditions, especially competitive in poorly drained soil. Avoid planting too many or densely if you want other species to establish at the same place and time.

MĀHOE WAO

Meliccytus lanceolatus
(Narrow-Leaved Māhoe)



Photo Credit : Jeremy R Rolfe



Photo Credit : John Barkla

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Leaves have saw-toothed margins and sit towards the ends of the branches. Leaves tend to curve toward the ground.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

A small, shrubby tree with slender, erect branches. Leaves are long and alternate. Flowers are yellow and violet to dark purple. Habitat of the *Austramathes purpurea* moth.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 5m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Shrubby tree

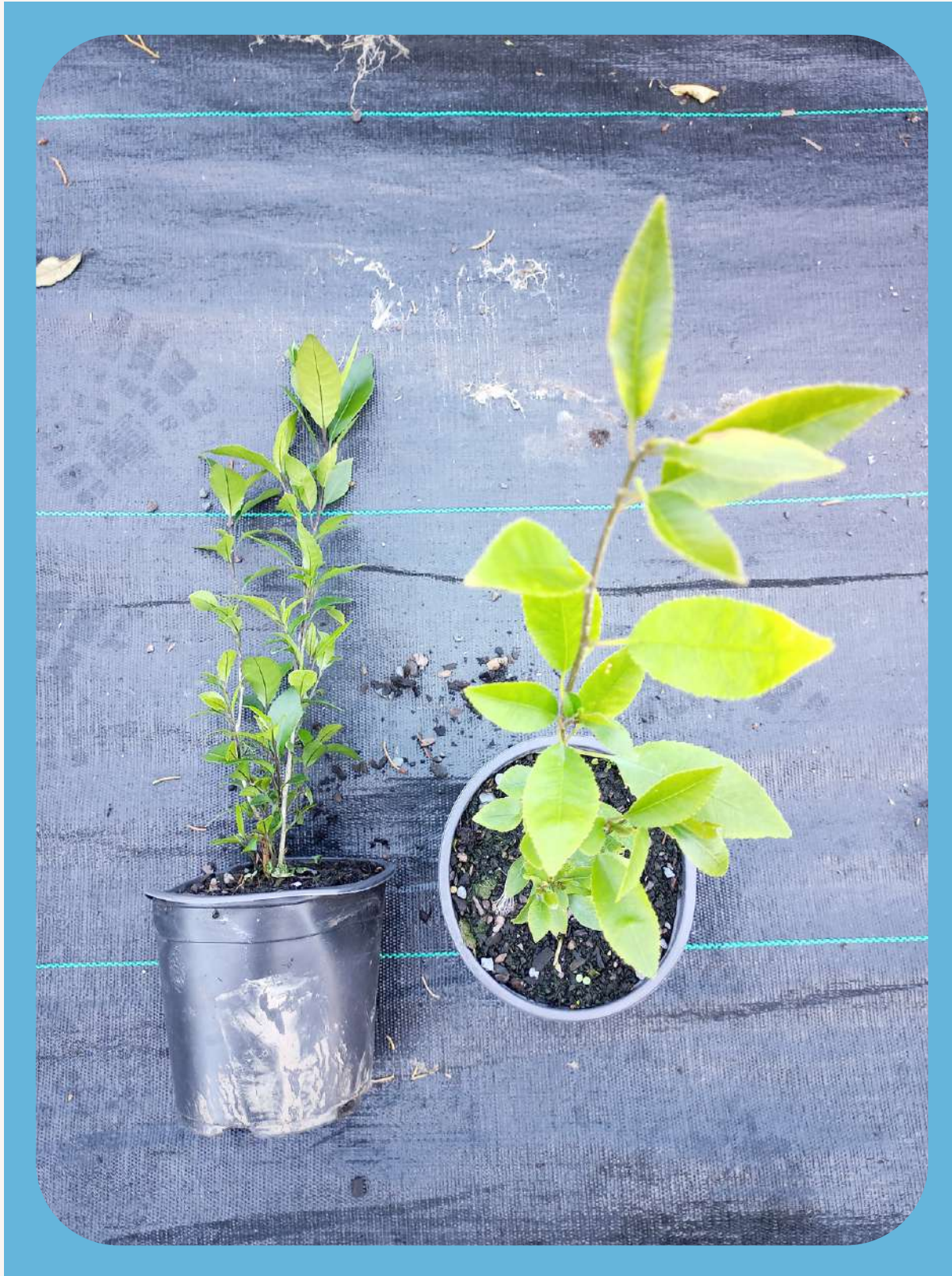
LOCATION

A wide range of conditions from damp to well-draining. In forest margins at coastal and inland sites. Frost hardy.

MĀHOE

Melicytus ramiflorus

(Whitey Wood)



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Woody; bark pale grey. Leaves are thin, fragile and yellowish. Serration on leaf margins is relatively fine and dense. Veins visible, though not very contrasting.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

A common tree with a pale, knobbly trunk. Flowers greenish, fruit purple. 'Melicytus' means "honey-cave" which relates to the nectar producing stamens.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 15m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Best planted in moist conditions in sheltered gullies or tucked up next to other vegetation

KĀIO (NGĀIO)

Myoporum laetum

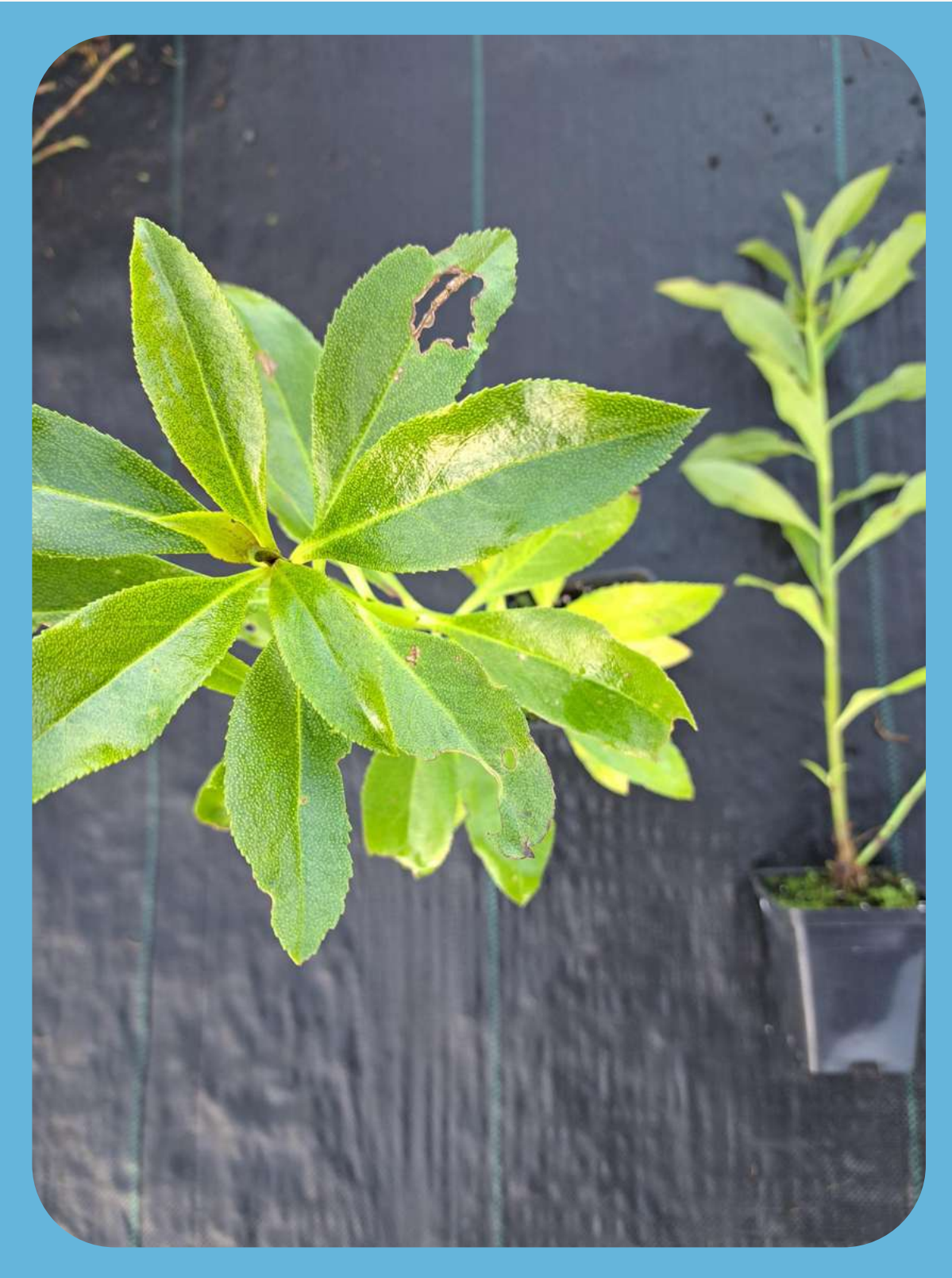


Photo Credit : Jeremy R Rolfe

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Green, semi-woody or woody main stem, medium-sized pointed oval leaves. Leaves are thick, dark or yellowish green, densely spotted with yellowish glands.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Spreading tree. Coastal. Flowers white with purple spots, and pink fruit. Note: If sourcing your own seedlings, take care not to plant the similar-looking Tasmanian *Myoporum insulare*.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 10m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Frost tender when young. Best in drier soils, tolerates drought, but will still be fine in moderately moist soil. Prefers sunny situation. Tolerant of salt spray.

WEEPING MĀPOU

Myrsine divaricata



Photo Credit : Willowbank Nursery



Photo Credit : John Barkla

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Orangey branches. Leaves are heart-shaped with a dark blotch at the base.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Common tall weeping shrub with tiny pale yellow or red flowers, and white, purple or black fruit.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 5m/2m

GROWTH FORM

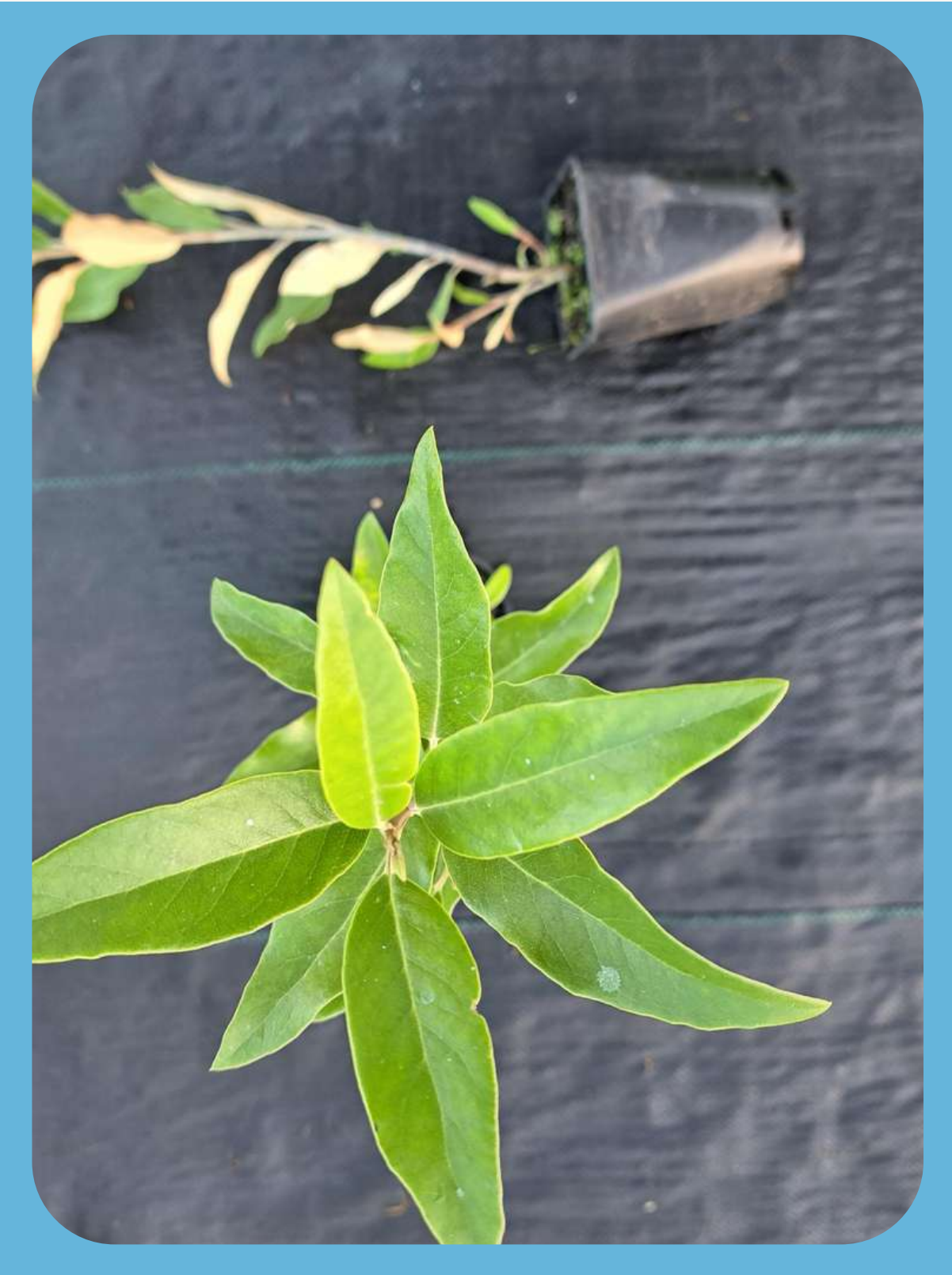
Tall shrub

LOCATION

Plant in partial shade or sun. This plant is seen in lowland and higher montane forests and shrublands throughout Aotearoa.

MOUNTAIN AKEAKE

Olearia avicenniifolia



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Narrow, leathery, pointed and glossy dark green leaves. Leaves are white underneath as is common with the Olearia genus. Leaves variable in size but always longer than they are wide.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

This bushy tree has white flowers in bunches appearing in late summer - autumn. Flowers have a sweet scent that carries. Flowers develop into fluffy seeds.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 6m/2m

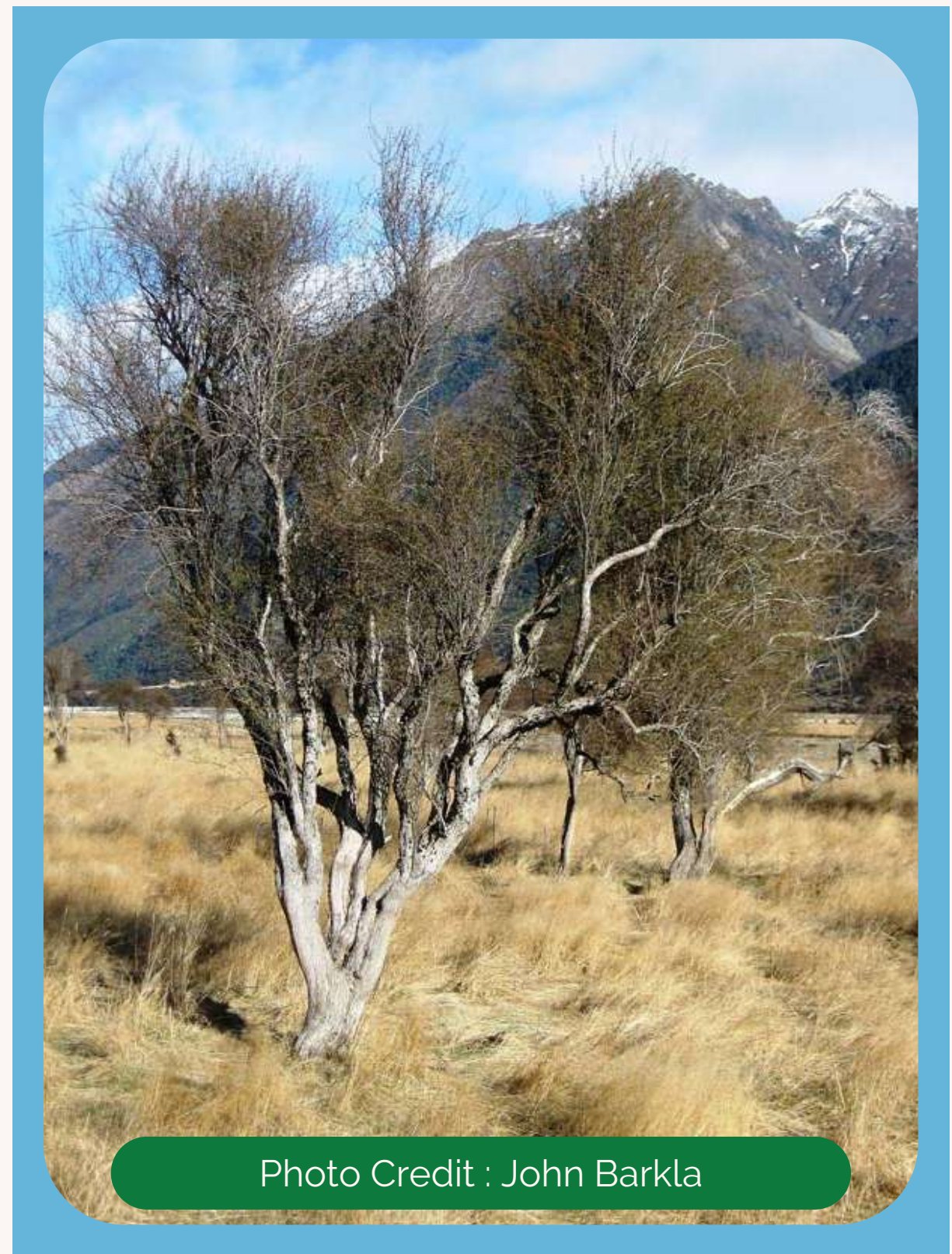
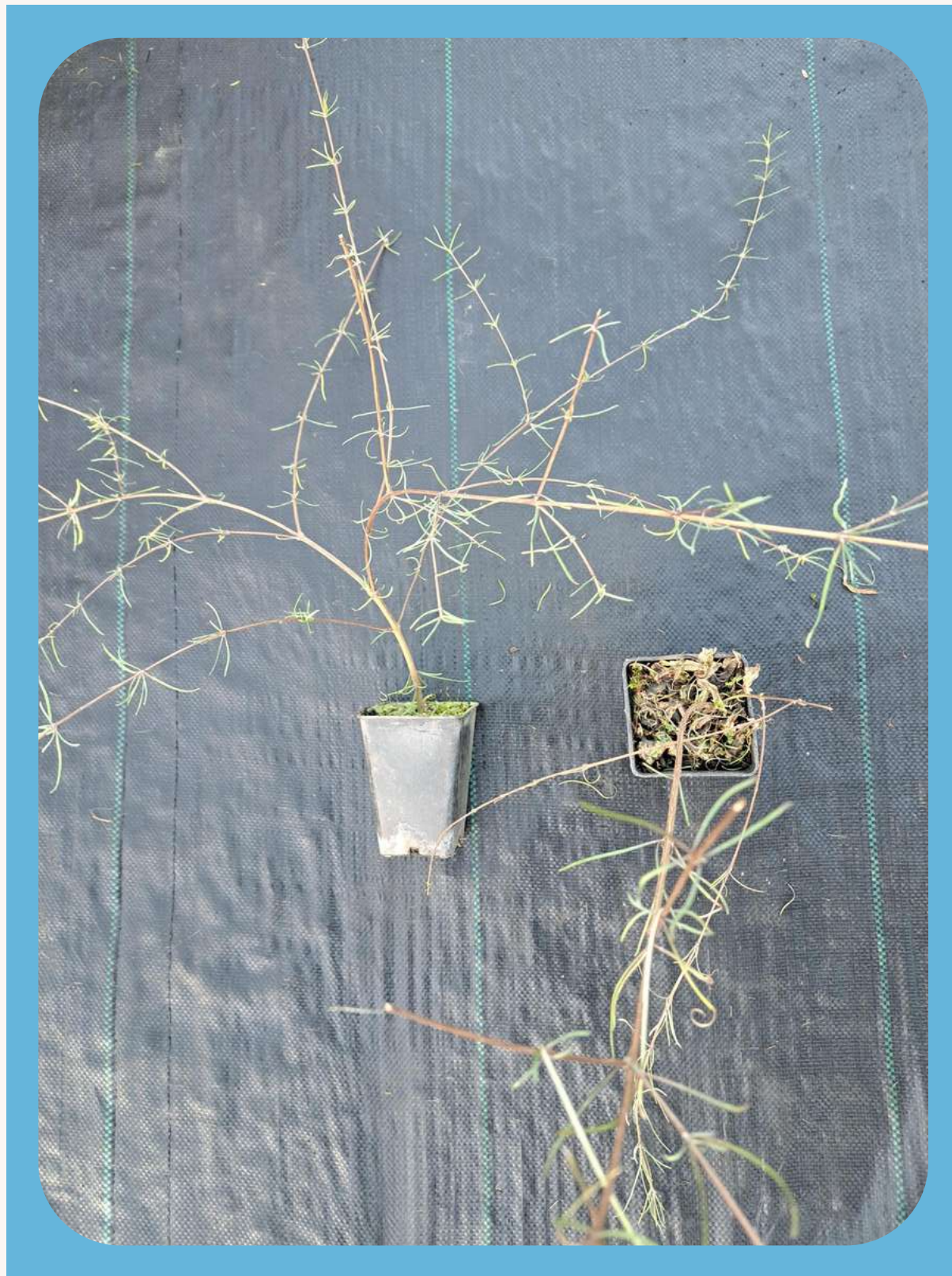
GROWTH FORM

Shrubby tree

LOCATION

Very hardy, tolerates exposed sites and dry soil.

Olearia lineata



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Identifiable by its narrow leaves with white undersides.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Olearia lineata is one of eight rare *Olearia* species and is endemic to the eastern South Island. Bark is grey. Canopy is spreading, similar to kānuka. Flowers are white and yellow.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 8m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Shrubby tree

LOCATION

Hardy. Tolerant of wet, cold, exposure and drought.

KAIKŌMAKO

Pennantia corymbosa
(Duck Foot)

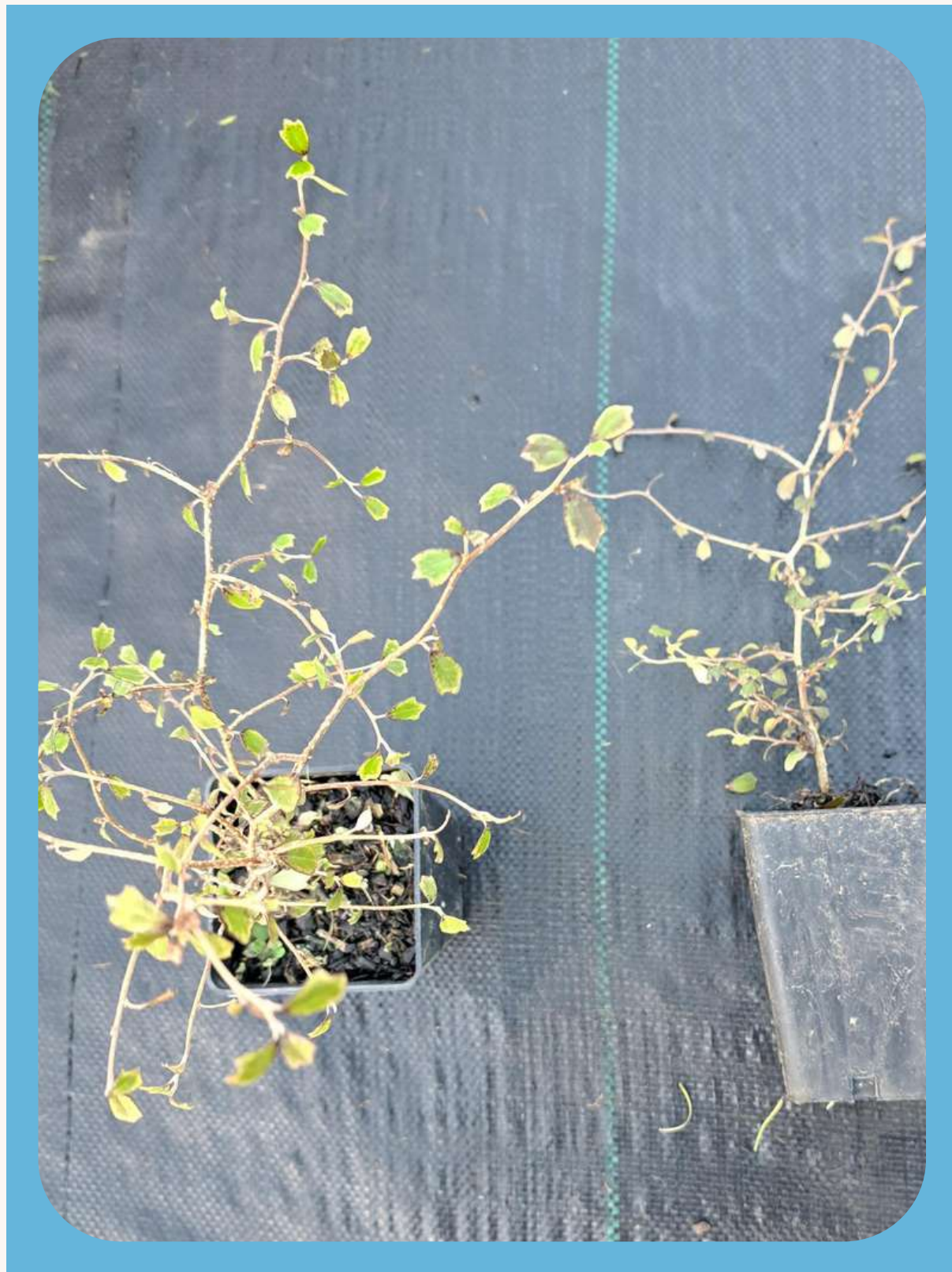


Photo Credit : Jeremy R Rolfe

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Divaricating shrub when young; small leaves, widest by the tip. Leaves have 3-4 defined lobes at the tip, hence the common name 'Duck's Foot'. Mottled grey bark on seedlings.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Adult leaves have a much less obvious lobed tip and are much larger (5cm long by 3cm wide). White flowers; fruit dark purple to black.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 10m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Ideal in moderate conditions: moist soil, some shelter, and partial light, though the tree is sometimes considered hardy.

HARAKEKE

Phormium tenax

(Flax)

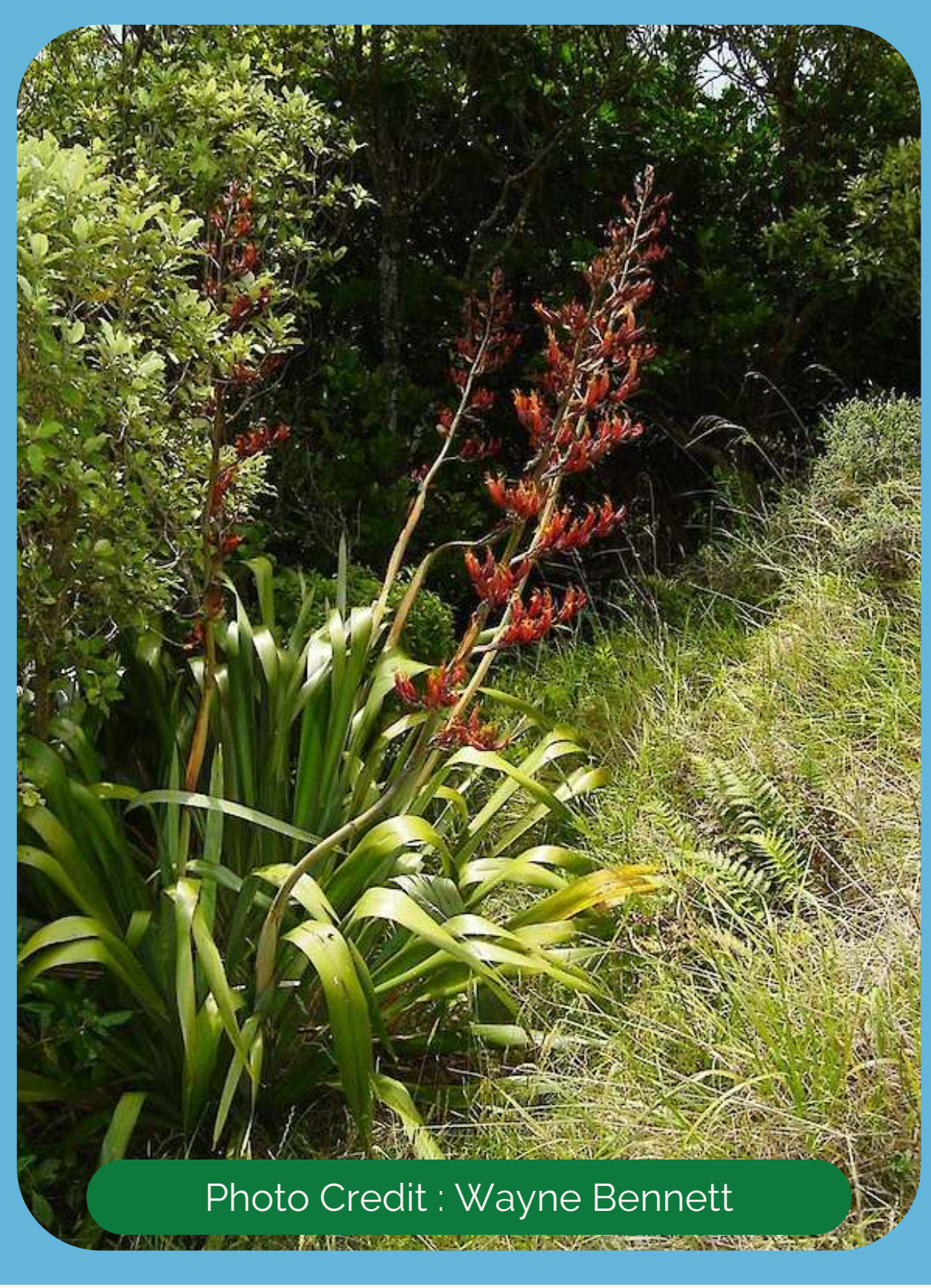
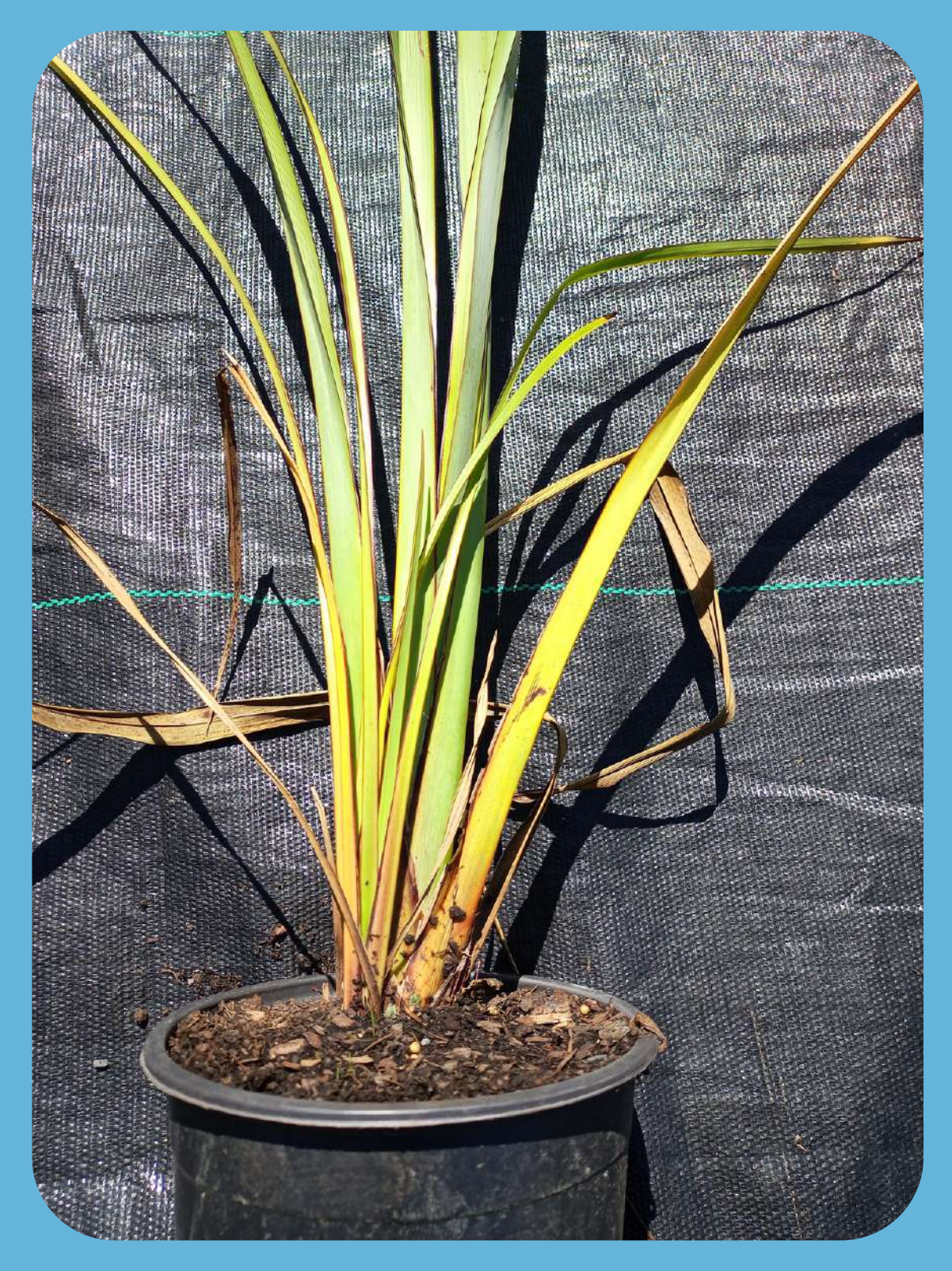


Photo Credit : Wayne Bennett

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Leaves wider than grasses, dark green and glossy, unfolding from a V at the base. Midrib less prominent than cabbage trees. Leaf surface smooth and soft. Leaves often have red-brown edges.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Could only be confused with the so called 'Mountain Flax' (*Phormium cookianum*) from which it is easily distinguished by the erect rather than hanging seed pods.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 3m/1m

GROWTH FORM

Flax

LOCATION

Hardy and adaptable.
Best in open, damp situation, and may be put in waterlogged soil.

TARATA

Pittosporum eugenioides

(Lemonwood)



Photo Credit : Jeremy R Rolfe

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Bark grey to greyish brown. Long leaves with wavy margins. Leaves often light yellow-green in colour. Leaves can be glossy, with a contrasting yellow midrib.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Can only be mistaken for other *Pittosporum* species but tarata has the longest leaves. The leaves let off a lemon smell when crushed, hence the common name 'Lemonwood'.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 12m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Considered a re-colonisation tree as it creates canopy quickly at open or disturbed sites; but it can be fickle with frost, windchill and excess moisture.

KŌHŪHŪ

Pittosporum tenuifolium

(Black Matipo)



Photo Credit : www.southernwoods.co.nz

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Woody; bark grey to brown. Leaves simple, alternate, oval. Leaves are often pointed, wavy margined, light green, lime green or silvery green.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Can be mistaken for other pittosporum species like tarata but kōhūhū has shorter and wider leaves. There are numerous selected garden breeds and considerable variation in true wild stock.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 10m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

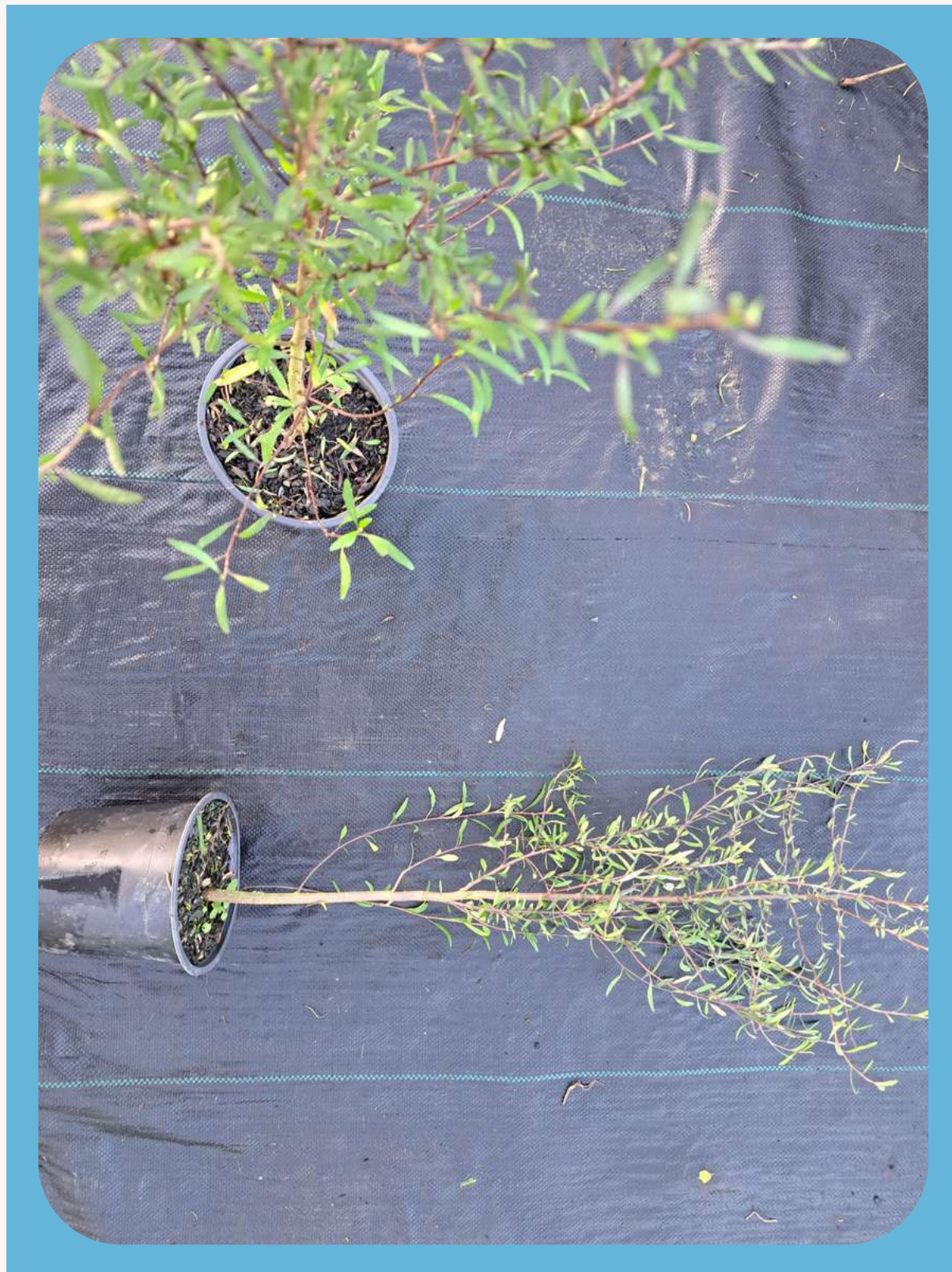
LOCATION

Fast canopy for open or disturbed sites, best in moderately moist soil but tolerant of a range of conditions.

MĀKAKA(1)

Plagianthus divaricatus

(Saltmarsh Ribbonwood)



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Plum-colored, woody seedling. Clusters of small green or bright-green leaves. Leaves are narrow and elongated, slightly widening towards their very tips.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Dense shrub with divaricating silvery stems and slender, small green leaves. White to yellow, star shaped flowers with yellow centres.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 4m/1.5m

GROWTH FORM

Shrub

LOCATION

Best on margins of brackish river mouths and estuaries, hence the common name 'Saltmarsh Ribbonwood'. Hardy.

MĀNATU

Plagianthus regius

(Lowland Ribbonwood)



Photo Credit : John Barkla

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Tangling, woody and thin-branched.
Juvenile leaves 10x15 mm, deeply and irregularly serrated.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Yellowish flowers becomes small green fruit that falls to the ground in bunches. Leaves long and much wider at base.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 12m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Tolerates a range of conditions, typically lowland forest.

TŌTARA

Podocarpus totara



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Woody yet flexible; Needles are relatively large, elongated but subtly oval. They are prickly, rigid and grow off the stem and branches. Coloured green to purple.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Bark can be grey, brown, green, red and purple, commonly multi-coloured on the same plant. Bright red fruit. Several garden cultivars have been introduced featuring different colours.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 35m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Best in drier soils, tolerates drought, but will still be fine in moderately moist soil. Prefers sunny situation.

ORIHOU

Pseudopanax colensoi

(Mountain Five Finger)



Photo Credit : Matai Nurseries



Photo Credit : Mike Thorsen

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Small tree with bright, glossy, green hand-shaped leaves with 3-5 'fingers' and fine teeth on margins. Leaflets arranged fanwise on very short stems - up to 20cm long.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Can be confused with *Pseudopanax arboreus*, which also has 5 'fingers' - the leaflet stalk of *P. colensoi* is much shorter. Purple-black fruit enjoyed by birds and bees. Plant loved by possums.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 8m/1.5m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

The common name is 'Mountain Five-Finger'. This tree grows from 50m to 1000m above sea level in moist forests and damp shrublands.

HOROEKA

Pseudopanax crassifolius

(Lancewood)



Photo Credit : Matai Nurseries



Photo Credit : Jesse Bythell

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Distinctive lance-like leaves - long, narrow, leathery, green shade, with sharp but fine and sparse teeth and a contrasting midrib.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Juvenile form much different to adult form - both illustrated in the picture above. Could be confused with *P. ferox* which has rounded teeth on juvenile leaves and darker adult leaves.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 15m/1m

GROWTH FORM

Slender tree

LOCATION

Best in drier, well-drained soils and sunny situation.
Vulnerable to root rot.

Pseudopanax ferox

(Fierce Lancewood)

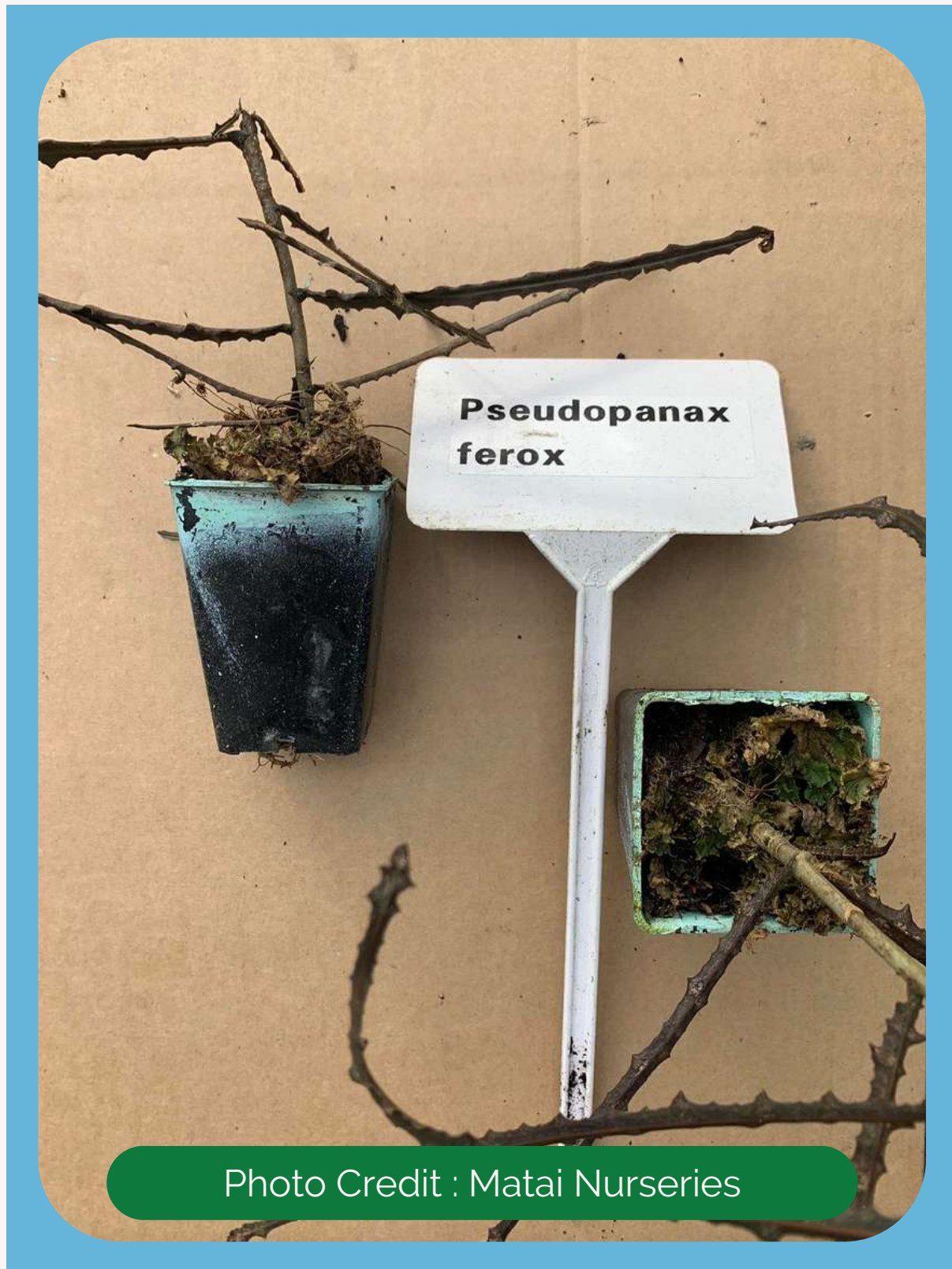


Photo Credit : Matai Nurseries

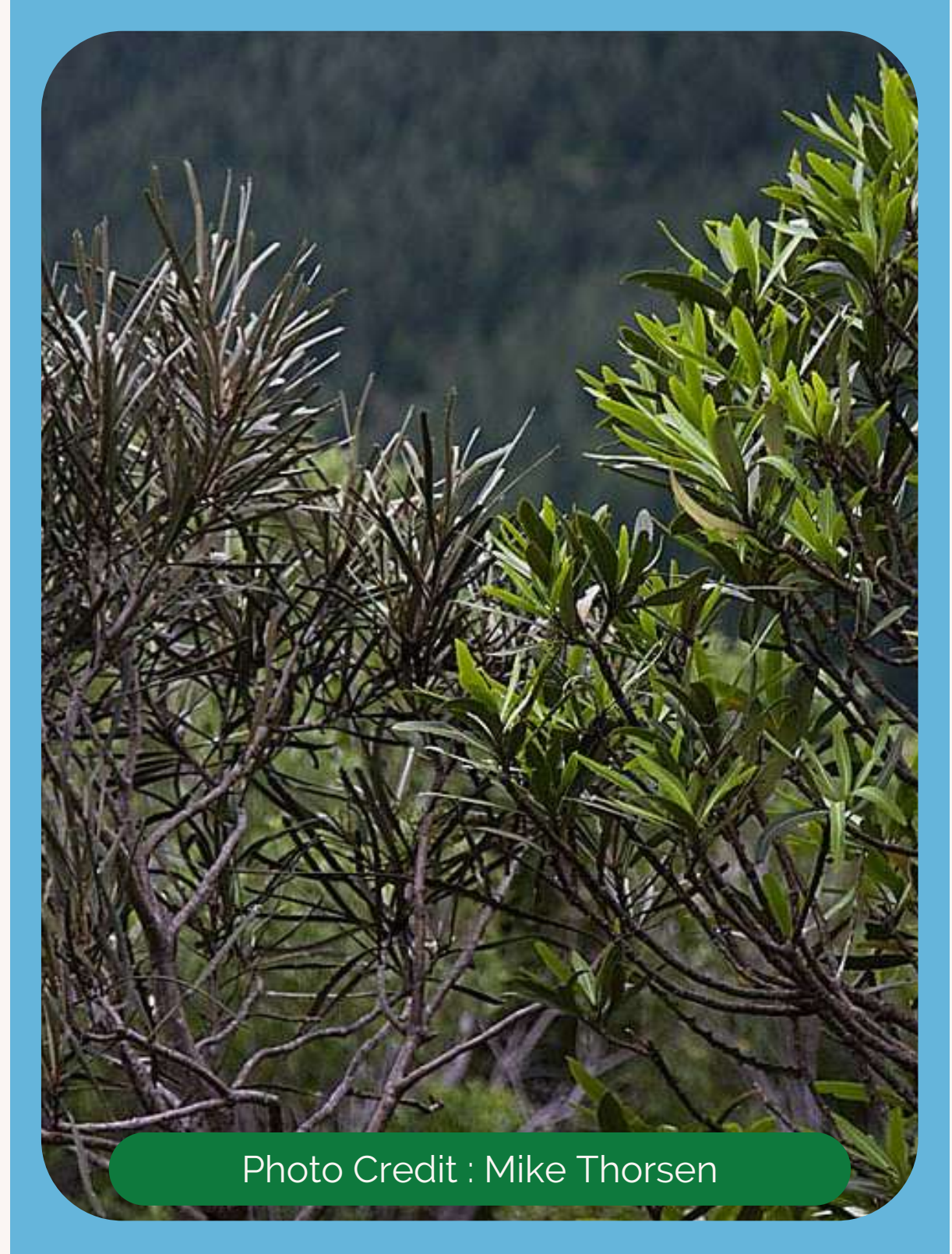


Photo Credit : Mike Thorsen

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Lance-like leaves - narrow and long, rough, dark green to purple shade, with rounded knobby edges. Contrasting midribs red to yellow.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Rare. The adult forms of *P. ferox* and *P. crassifolius* are both shown in the picture (right) above - *P. ferox* on the left, *P. crassifolius* on the right.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 10m/1.5m

GROWTH FORM

Slender tree

LOCATION

Best in drier, well-drained soils and sunny situation.
Might like rock and fertiliser.

PATATÉ

Schefflera digitata

(Seven Finger)



Photo Credit : John Barkla

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Leaflets in fans of seven (though not always). A fine serration on leaf margins distinguishes this from *P. arboreus* (Five-Finger) which has larger teeth and thicker leaves.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

A small tree with greenish cream flowers and dark purple fruit. Flowers and fruit form in bunches as shown in the picture above. Found throughout Aotearoa.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 8m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Slender tree

LOCATION

Best in modest openings among shady and moist area, such as a stream margin in a deep bush.

KŌWHAI

Sophora microphylla

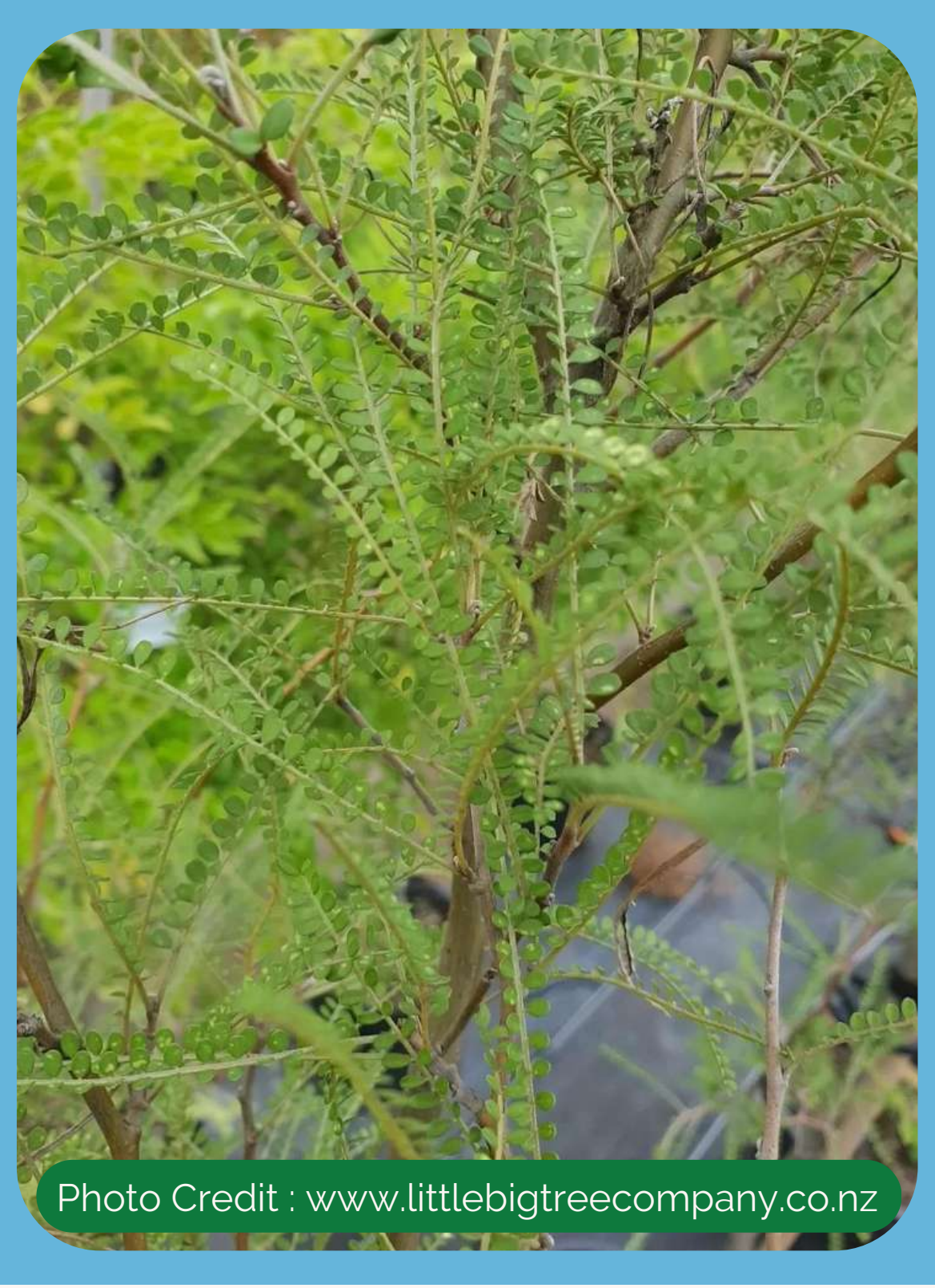
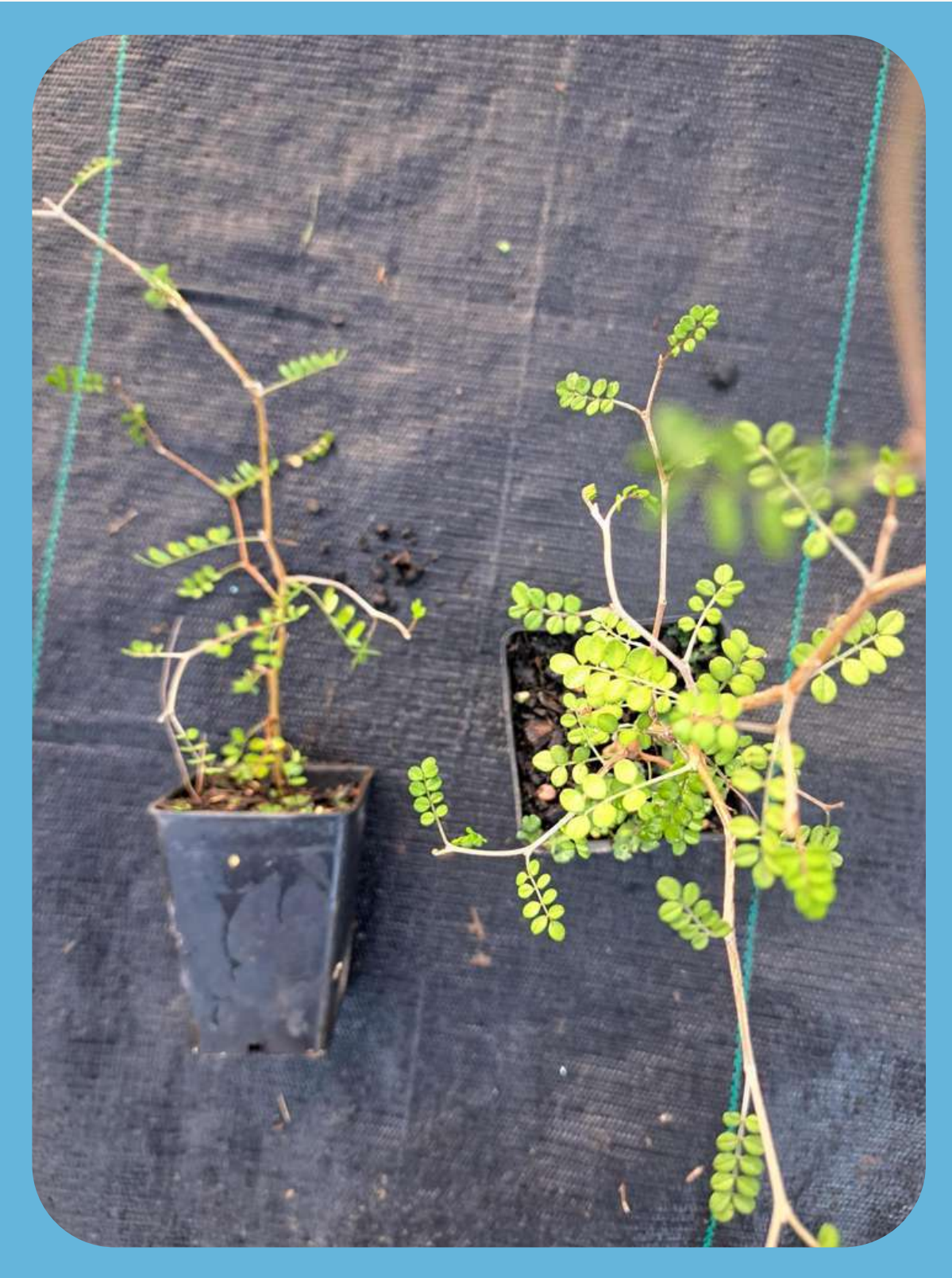


Photo Credit : www.littlebigtreecompany.co.nz

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Leaflets often 3-5 cm long, up to 15 cm in mature trees. Leaflets slightly hairy, not crowded or overlapping. 6-25 pairs of leaves in a leaflet. Juvenile form divaricating (tangling).

MATURE DESCRIPTION

There are 8 kōwhai species which hybridise readily. Planting them outside of their true local range is considered a threat to the whole family. This is one of only two kōwhai endemic to the South Island.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 25m/2m

GROWTH FORM

Tree

LOCATION

Can tolerate most conditions, including damp wetland margins or rocky dry slopes. Ideally avoid waterlogged soil for seedlings. An open situation is a good choice.

Teucrium parvifolium

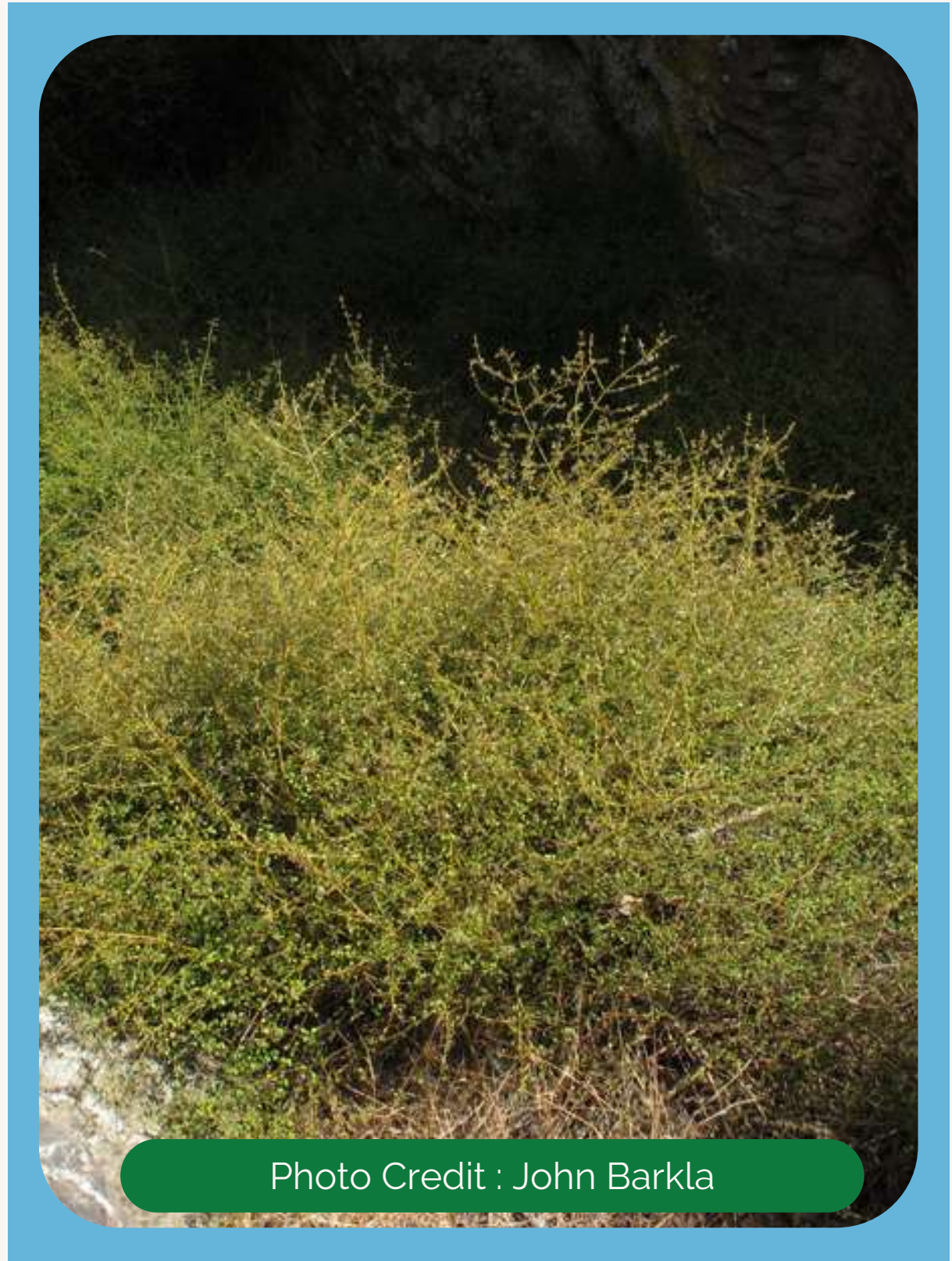


Photo Credit : John Barkla

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Multi-branched, flexible, sometimes tangly shrub. Stems are orange and square. Tiny leaves, variable in colour, spade-shaped, and opposite, (like *Coprosma spp.*) but lacks stipules.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

This small shrub with white (rarely blueish) flowers is considered 'at risk/declining'. This plant is identifiable from similar *Coprosma spp.* by the indented leaf midrib and square stems.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 2m/1.5m

GROWTH FORM

Shrub

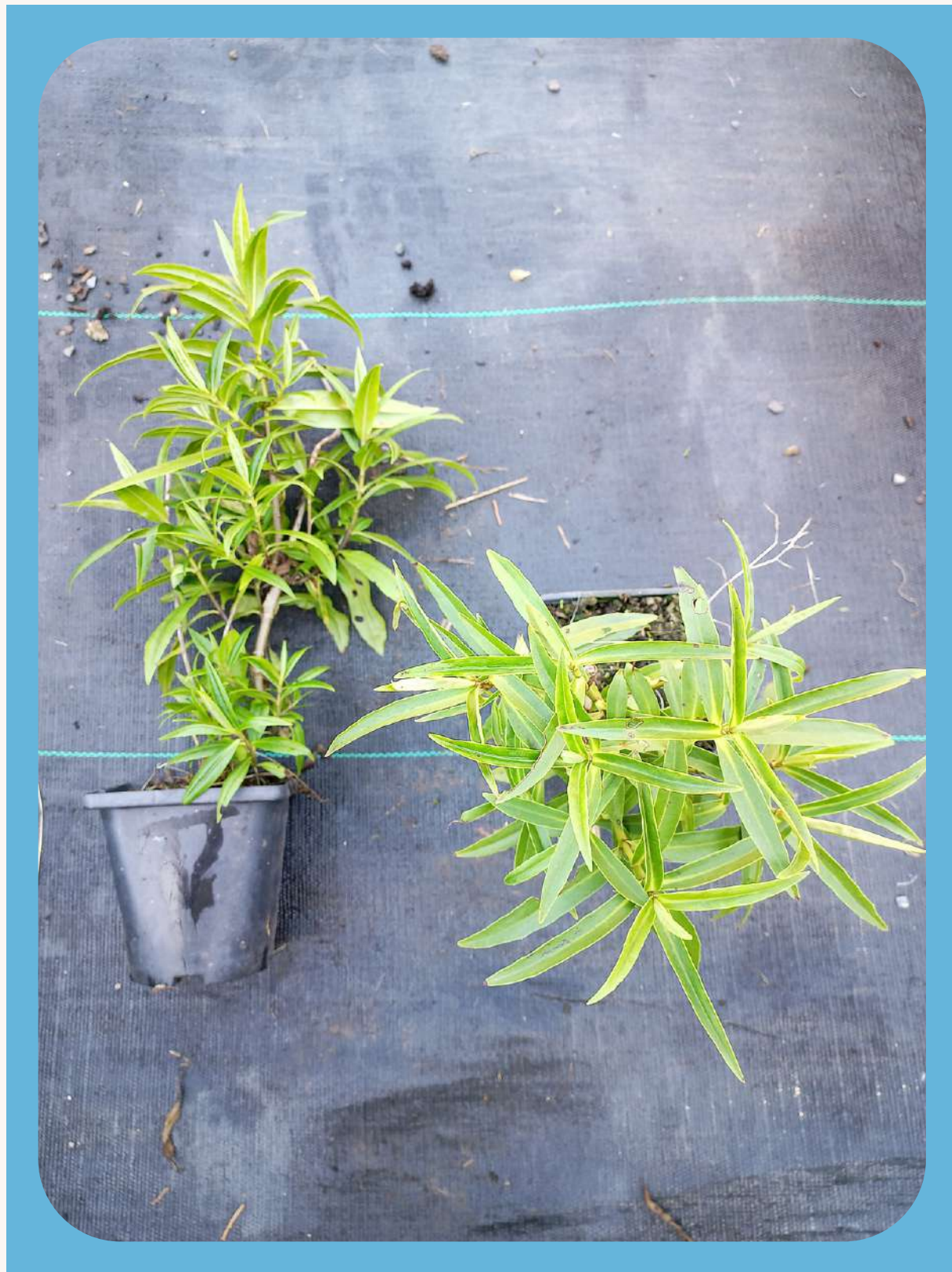
LOCATION

Reportedly quite hardy, though possibly best in moderate conditions.

KOROMIKO

Veronica (Hebe) salicifolia

(Willow-leaf Hebe)



SEEDLING DESCRIPTION

Semi-woody main stem, softer and paler branches. Long and narrow leaves, soft, sometimes with an uneven margin. Upper leaf smooth, subtly V-shaped, with yellow midrib, especially at its base.

MATURE DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub with distinctive pairs of pointed, narrow leaves. Flowers white to purple. Grows naturally in Te Wai Pōunamu/South Island, Rakiura/Stewart Island and Auckland Island.

HEIGHT/ SPACING

Up to 2.5m/1.5m

GROWTH FORM

Shrub

LOCATION

Prefers moist soil, full sun, maybe some side shelter but can handle most sites. Becomes hardy and tolerant of greater extremes as it establishes. Provides good, low shelter in revegetation sites.

