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Metrosideros robusta

NEW ZEALAND FLAME TREE is an evergreen tree. Native to New Zealand it has small scarlet flowers with many conspicuous red stamens.

It is also known as Northern rata, North Island rata, and *Rata* (Maori).

Flowers are pollinated by bees.

Robusta is derived from Latin *robusti*- (strong, stout) meaning ‘stout or strong growth’.

The flowers produce an edible nectar – which not only yields a sweet honey but is also enjoyed by birds.

The tough and durable red wood has been used in New Zealand for bridge building, shipbuilding, wharves, carriages, railway sleepers, telegraph poles, wheel parts and fuel.

According to authorities this wood, when still green, will smoulder for months if kindled.

The tree has been cultivated as an ornamental plant.