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Pomaderris elliptica

KUMARAHOU (Maori) is a shrub or tree. Native to Tasmania and northern New Zealand it has small fragrant, yellowish-green flowers.

It is also known as Elliptical-leaved pomaderris, Golden tainui, Gumdiggers soap, Papapa, and Poverty weed.

Elliptica means ‘elliptic (curved sides longer than wide and broadest in the middle) or oval’ usually with reference to leaf shape.

The common name Kumarhou is derived from Maori words *kumara* and *hou* (meaning ‘tuber-like root’ and ‘growing deeply or strongly’).

Medicinally, the plant is used locally particularly by the Maoris. It is said to be a remedy for asthma, chest ailments, kidney disorders, diabetes, skin cancer and sores.