

# Tasmanian ngaio

*Myoporum insulare*

## Family

Myoporaceae (myoporum)

## Also known as

Australian ngaio, boobialla

## Where is it originally from?

Tasmania, Australia

## What does it look like?

Large smooth-barked shrub or small tree with numerous branches from the base forming a dense rounded bushy shape. Leaf buds are green and sticky when fresh, and leaves (to 12 x 3 cm) are thick (semi succulent), finely dotted with glands and serrated towards the ends. White 5-petalled flowers (7-8mm diameter) with fine purple dots (Sep-Jun) are tubular at the base, and the deep purple fruit is slightly longer than wide (6 mm diameter).

## Are there any similar species?

New Zealand ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*) and Kermadec ngaio (*M. kermadecense*) both have rough furrowed bark.

## Why is it weedy?

Hybridizes and competes with New Zealand's native ngaio.

## How does it spread?

Seed, or commonly planted, as mistaken for New Zealand ngaio.

## What damage does it do?

Hybridized plants spread by seed and compete with New Zealand ngaio in coastal areas.

## Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Coastal areas, sandy sites behind beaches.

## What can I do to get rid of it?

Grub out seedlings and small plants (all year round).



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)



Photo: Trevor James



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