

MEKA RĀKAU

# Kōtukutuku

(Tree fuchsia)

*Fuchsia excorticata*



Sparklers

## MEKA RĀKAU

# Characteristics

The largest of its kind, kōtukutuku is one of the 'fuchsia' family. One of only a few trees native to Aotearoa that are deciduous (a rākau who loses leaves in the winter).

Kōtukutuku bears small flowers that change from greenish-yellow to purple-red.

Kōtukutuku also grow dark purple berries, known as kōnini by Māori, which are edible and taste a bit like tamarillos.



## MEKA RĀKAU

Birds are big fans of kōtukutuku!  
Manu such as tūī, korimako, and  
tauhou love to eat the nectar from the  
flowers.

**Do you welcome visitors  
like kōtukutuku?**



RĀKAU MEKA

**What can we learn  
from kōtukutuku?**

**How might we apply  
this in our  
classroom?**

