

Agathis

“Kauri” redirects here. For the locality in Northland, New Zealand, see **Kauri, New Zealand**.
Not to be confused with **karri**.

Agathis, commonly known as **kauri** or **dammar**, is a relatively small genus of 21 species of evergreen tree. The genus is part of the ancient Araucariaceae family of conifers, a group once widespread during the Jurassic period, but now largely restricted to the Southern Hemisphere except for a number of extant Malesian *Agathis*.^{[1][2]}

1 Description



Bark of Agathis robusta at Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens (leaves belong to another plant)

Mature kauri trees have characteristically large trunks, forming a bole with little or no branching below the crown. In contrast, young trees are normally conical in shape, forming a more rounded or irregularly shaped crown as they achieve maturity.^[3]

The bark is smooth and light grey to grey-brown, usually peeling into irregular flakes that become thicker on more mature trees. The branch structure is often horizontal or, when larger, ascending. The lowest branches often leave circular branch scars when they detach from the lower trunk.

The juvenile leaves in all species are larger than the adult, more or less acute, varying among the species from ovate to lanceolate. Adult leaves are opposite, elliptical to linear, very leathery and quite thick. Young leaves are often a coppery-red, contrasting markedly with the usually

green or glaucous-green foliage of the previous season.

The male pollen cones appear usually only on larger trees after seed cones have appeared. The female seed cones usually develop on short lateral branchlets, maturing after two years. They are normally oval or globe shaped.

Seeds of some species are attacked by the caterpillars of *Agathiphaga*, some of the most primitive of all living moths.

2 Uses

See also: **Kauri Museum** and **Kauri gum**

Various species of kauri give diverse resins such as kauri copal, Manilla copal and Dammar gum. The timber is generally straight-grained and of fine quality with an exceptional strength-to-weight ratio and rot resistance, making it ideal for yacht hull construction. The wood is commonly used in the manufacture of guitars and ukuleles due to its light weight and relatively low price of production. It is also used for some Go boards (goban). The uses of the New Zealand species (*A. australis*) included shipbuilding, house construction, wood panelling, furniture making, mine braces, and railway sleepers.

3 Species list

accepted species^[1]

1. *Agathis atropurpurea*—black kauri, blue kauri (Queensland, Australia)
2. *Agathis australis*—kauri, New Zealand kauri (North Island, New Zealand)
3. *Agathis borneensis* (western Malesia, Borneo)
4. *Agathis corbassonii*—red kauri (New Caledonia)
5. *Agathis dammara* (syn. *A. celebica*)—Bindang (eastern Malesia)
6. *Agathis endertii* (Borneo)
7. *Agathis flavescens* (Peninsular Malaysia)
8. *Agathis kinabaluensis* (Borneo)
9. *Agathis labillardieri* (New Guinea)

10. *Agathis lanceolata* (New Caledonia)
11. *Agathis lenticula* (Borneo)
12. *Agathis macrophylla* (syn. *A. vitiensis*)—Pacific kauri, dakua (Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands)
13. *Agathis microstachya*—bull kauri (Queensland, Australia)
14. *Agathis montana* (New Caledonia)
15. *Agathis moorei*—white kauri (New Caledonia)
16. *Agathis orbicula* (Borneo)
17. *Agathis ovata* (New Caledonia)
18. *Agathis philippinensis* (Philippines, Sulawesi)
19. *Agathis robusta*—Queensland kauri (Queensland, Australia; New Guinea)
20. *Agathis silbae* (Vanuatu)
21. *Agathis spathulata*—New Guinea kauri (Papua New Guinea)
22. *Agathis zamunerae*—Patagonia, South America (Argentina)

formerly included^[1]

moved to *Nageia*

1. *Agathis motleyi* - *Nageia motleyi*
2. *Agathis veitchii* - *Nageia nagi*

4 Picture gallery

- Te Matua Ngahere, an *A. australis* in Waipoua Forest, is the second largest tree in New Zealand.
- *Agathis lanceolata*
- Tane mahuta (*Agathis australis*)
- Tane mahuta in the Waipoua Forest (*Agathis australis*)
- *Agathis ovata*
- *Agathis macrophylla*
- *Agathis robusta*
- *Agathis borneeensis*
- An *Agathis australis* male pollen cone
- An *Agathis australis* seed
- An *Agathis australis* cone
- *Agathis australis* Leaves and cones

5 References

- [1] Kew World Checklist of Selected Plant Families
- [2] de Laubenfels, David J. 1988. Coniferales. P. 337–453 in Flora Malesiana, Series I, Vol. 10. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic.
- [3] Whitmore, T.C. 1977. A first look at Agathis. Tropical Forestry Papers No. 11. University of Oxford Commonwealth Forestry Institute.

6 External links

- Systematics of *Agathis*
- Gymnosperm Database: *Agathis*
- Kauri forest in *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*

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