

Rubus schmidelioides var. schmidelioides

COMMON NAME

tātārāmoa, bush lawyer, white-leaved lawyer

SYNONYMS

Rubus australis var. *schmidelioides* (A.Cunn.) Hook.f.; *Rubus cissoides* var. *coloratus* Kirk

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Rubus schmidelioides A.Cunn. var. *schmidelioides*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Prickly scrambling vine. Prickles red. Leaves compound; leaflets usually three, these leathery, dark-green to bronze green, markedly wrinkled above with the undersides covered in fine white, grey-white or brown tomentum. Flowers white or cream in small panicles. Fruits yellow or orange.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from about Hikurangi - Dargaville South), South and Stewart Islands

HABITAT

Coastal to montane in scrub and forest.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



Whirinaki, October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Whakamaru, Kaahu Road. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 24/10/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Much-branched dioecious vine with stems up to 10 m or more long when growing through supporting vegetation or forming sprawling bushes with interlacing branchlets when exposed. Young branchlets terete, up to 40 mm diameter; pubescent, becoming glabrous with age, armed or unarmed; when armed then armed with small, reddish prickles. Stipules minute, caducous, linear to linear-filiform. Leaves of adults ternate to palmate, petioles 20-50 mm long; lamina of adult leaflets 30-80 × 10-50 mm, coriaceous, ovate, oval, lanceolate, elliptic to broadly elliptic, acute, subacute to obtuse, rounded to oblique at base, margins coarsely and often unevenly serrate, adaxially dark green to bronze-green, more or less glossy, glabrous or almost glabrous, rugose to bullate, veins distinct (these often minutely pubescent), abaxially glaucous to white, usually finely, densely tomentose, tomentum white to grey-white, veins prominent below, pubescent, midrib armed or not; petiolules 3-5(-20 mm long). Inflorescence a much-branched panicle up to 100 mm long (rarely reduced to few-flowered racemes), branchlets and pedicels unarmed, more or less finely pubescent. Flowers white to cream, usually densely aggregate, on pedicels 5-10 mm long. Sepals 2-6 mm long, ovate-oblong to broad-ovate, pubescent; petals 5, 4-7 mm long, ovate to broadly ovate. Male flowers with numerous stamens, ovary absent or rudimentary. Female flowers with rudimentary stamen, carpels numerous. Fruits 5-9 mm diameter, drupelets 8-12 (or more), yellow or orange. Endocarp 'seed' 1.9-2.5 mm long, dorsally ridged 2x.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from introduced *Rubus* (blackberries, raspberries, wineberries etc) by the smaller flowers, usually palmate or ternate leaves, and the lack of long glandular bristly hairs on the young stems. *Rubus schmidelioides* var. *schmidelioides* differs from the other indigenous New Zealand *Rubus* (bush lawyers) by the red prickles, leathery, rugose to bullate leaves, with greyish white, white (rarely brown) tomentose or glaucous leaflet undersides, and yellow to orange fruits. *Rubus schmidelioides* var. *subpauperatus* differs from var. *schmidelioides* by the more conspicuously armed stems, petioles and leaf midveins, ternate to palmate leaves, by the narrowly lanceolate leaflets, and more compact panicles.

FLOWERING

September - November

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from layered stems and semi-hardwood cuttings. Flourishes when planted in damp ground in a well-lighted situation. Not often grown on account of its prickly stems - but nevertheless an attractive plant. The fruits though edible are insipid.

ETYMOLOGY

rubus: From the Latin meaning bramble

schmidelioides: Like *schmidelia*, a soap wort

TAXONOMIC NOTES

In the North-West Nelson region (west from about the Wakamarama range south to the Mokihinui Bluff) a very broad-leaved race of *Rubus schmidelioides* is present (the description above includes this entity). On account of its large leaflets it is known locally as *Rubus* "Strawberry Leaf" - its taxonomic status requires further investigation.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 26 October 2016. Description based on Allan (1961), Webb et al. (1988) and Webb & Simpson (2001)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Wellington, Government Printer.

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Christchurch, Manuka Press.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rubus-schmidelioides-var-schmidelioides/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rubus-schmidelioides-var-schmidelioides/>