

Cinnamomum camphora

COMMON NAME

Camphor laurel

FAMILY

Lauraceae

AUTHORITY

Cinnamomum camphora (L.) J.S.Pres.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous to China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Korea, Southern Japan. First recorded wild from New Zealand in 1999 (reported Heenan et al. (2002)). Now widespread and locally common in the northern North Island

HABITAT

In New Zealand scattered in urban areas and adjoining indigenous forest remnants but also spreading into large tracts of indigenous forest.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Trees 15–30 m tall, with stout trunk and broad spreading crown. Bark light brown or greyish-brown, rugose, tessellated, finely fissured strongly aromatic bark. Young branches glabrous, maroon, reddish or green, rounded. Leaf buds prominent enclosed by caducous scales. Leaves alternatively arranged or in pseudo-whorls; petioles 15–40 mm long, glabrous; lamina 45–110 × 24–60 mm, elliptic, ovate-lanceolate, ovate to broadly ovate, glabrous, adaxially glossy green to yellow-green (young growth usually flushed pink), abaxially glaucous or dull green, adaxial midrib yellowish to cream prominent, side-veins three, prominent, apex apiculate, base attenuate to narrowly cuneate. Domatia pouched, domatium located within axils of midrib and basal secondary veins, and sometimes between secondary and tertiary veins. Inflorescence a terminal to sub-terminal 8–16–20 or more-flowered panicle 70–80(–120) mm long. Flowers 5–8 mm diameter, petals 1.5–2.5(–3.2) mm long, ovate to truncate, greenish-white, white to pale yellow. Fruit a globular glossy black drupe 8–10 mm diameter, held embedded in a cupular green to glaucous green receptacle 5–6 mm diameter.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED

1999

ORIGIN

China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Korea, Southern Japan

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental. Widely grown in gardens, parks, as a street verge and shade tree



Foliage, Ex Cult. University of Auckland.
Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken:
18/06/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cinnamomum camphora wild trees invading
indigenous forest remnant, Puhoi.
Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken:
30/09/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 16 June 2020: Description by P.J. de Lange based on New Zealand specimens

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J.; Cameron, E.K.; Champion, P.D. 2002: Checklist of dicotyledons, gymnosperms, and pteridophytes naturalised or casual in New Zealand: additional records 1999–2000. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 40: 155-174.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Cinnamomum camphora* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cinnamomum-camphora/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cinnamomum-camphora/>