

Lepidothamnus intermedius

COMMON NAME

yellow silver pine

SYNONYMS

Dacrydium intermedium Kirk

FAMILY

Podocarpaceae

AUTHORITY

Lepidothamnus intermedius (Kirk) Quinn

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

NVS CODE

LEPINT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 30

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, (Coromandel Range, Raukumara Range, Te Uruwera through the Central Volcanic Plateau and Kaingaroa Plain south in a patchy distribution to Ruahine Range), South Island (mostly west of main divide from Kahurangi Range south to Fiordland), and Stewart Island.

HABITAT

Lowland, montane and subalpine forest and scrub.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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



Kauaeranga valley, Thames. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



At Kauaeranga valley, Thames. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dioecious, tree up to 15m high, occasionally a dwarfed form. **Trunk** often multi-trunked 0.3–0.6 m, bark grey-brown, mature specimens distinctly patterned with red-brown hammer mark when bark flakes off. Wood yellow. **Foliage** dimorphic, usually bright yellow-green, occasionally chocolate brown; juveniles 9–15 mm. long, spreading, narrow-linear-subulate, acute, recurved, subterete; semi-juveniles (seen to produce fertile parts in this stage) 3–6 mm long, closer set, subpatent, broadly subulate, trigonous, acute to subacute; adults 1.5–3 mm long, overlapping, appressed, rhomboid, obtuse, keeled, coriaceous, only seen when forming part of canopy. **Male strobili** solitary, terminal, 5–6 mm long, approximately 2 mm wide; apiculus broadly triangular, obtuse. **Female cones** on separate plant from male strobili, solitary, terminal, final 3–4 scales leaflike thin. **Ovule** erect; epimatium not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ length of seed. **Receptacle** fleshy or slightly swollen, pink. **Seed** is 3–5 mm long, black, narrow to broad-oblong, nutlike, apiculus curved.

SIMILAR TAXA

Juvenile *Dacrydium cupressinum*, which is more drooping and usually darker green. Adult scale leaves of *D. cupressinum* can be easily distinguished as they are pointed and less distinctly keeled.

Manoao colensoi, usually has single erect trunk with hammer marked bark, slender adult branchlets with tightly smooth appressed scale leaves which do not curve over or down.

Lepidothamnus laxifolius is a low sprawling shrub, with very obvious red arils. Occasionally seen as a hybrid between *L. laxifolius* and *L. intermedius* which can make identification very difficult until one is very familiar with all the parent species (illustrated in Wilson & Galloway, 1993).

Halocarpus bidwillii differs by the lax juvenile foliage abrupt change to adult scale-like foliage and has white arils.

Halocarpus biformis differs by the lax juvenile foliage abrupt change to adult scale-like foliage and has orange arils.

FLOWERING

Male cone: October- early December

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

FRUITING

February-April

LIFE CYCLE

Arrilate seeds are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

lepidothamnus: From the Greek lepidō 'scale' & thamnōs 'crowded or close set'

intermedius: From the Latin inter & medius 'in the middle'

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by M.D. Ward (10 April 2024). Description from Allan (1961), Wilson & Galloway (1993).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. Page 111.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

Wilson, H.D. and Galloway, T., 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Christchurch: Manuka Press. Pages 254–256.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lepidothamnus-intermedius/>