

Olearia traversiorum

COMMON NAME

hakaipiri, Chatham Island akeake,

SYNONYMS

Eurybia traversii F.Muell., *Olearia traversii* (F.Muell.) Hook.f. ortho. var.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Olearia traversiorum (F.Muell.) Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

OLETRA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 108

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, DP, IE, RF

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, DP, IE, RF

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, DP, IE, RF

2004 | Range Restricted

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

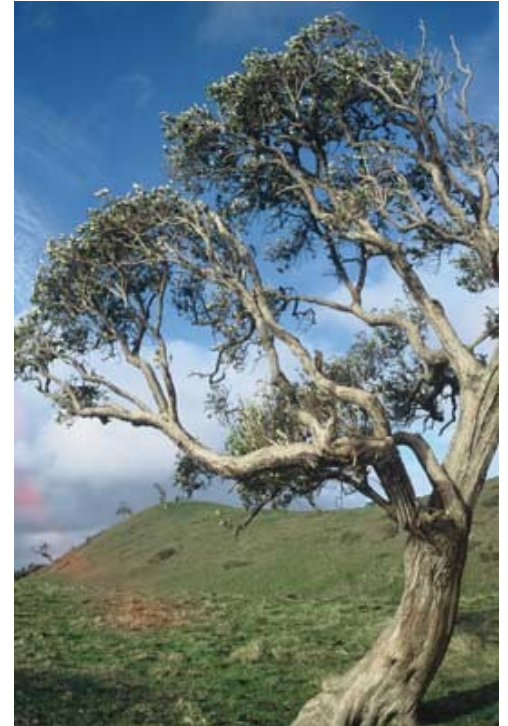
Small tree with oval dark green leathery leaves that are whiteish underneath and persistent seed heads inhabiting drier sites on the Chatham Islands. Leaves 15-80mm long by 10-46mm wide. Flowers cream or brownish, in small clusters, appearing late spring. Seeds fluffy.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Chatham Islands

HABITAT

A tree common of lowland forests, now most commonly found on dune systems. It also occurs along the edge of larger lagoons and lakes (but only in free draining soils) and sometimes on cliff tops.



Nr Tennants Lake, Chatham Island.
Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cult. July. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree 12–18 m tall; trunks up to 1 m diameter, upright to spreading; occasionally with epicormic shoots. Bark light grey, becoming coarsely fibrous, deeply fissured, and rough textured on trunk and old branches; branchlets quadrangular, stout, 2.0–2.6 mm diameter. Leaves opposite, lamina 15–80 × 10–46 mm, broadly elliptic, obovate, broad-obovate, or occasionally elliptic; upper surface dark green, glossy, midrib raised and prominent; underside with dense appressed, off-white, tomentum; apex subacute to obtuse, with a small apiculus; base cuneate to obtuse, sometimes attenuate; petiole 5–10 mm long, covered in dense appressed tomentum. Inflorescence an axillary panicle with 5–68 capitula, persistent after fruiting; primary branches in 3–6 opposite pairs; lower pairs of branches with 3–19 capitula, upper 1–3 branches each with 1–3 capitula. Bracts subtending primary branches, 2.0–5.0 × 0.8–1.2 mm, lanceolate to narrowly triangular, apex subacute. Bracteoles 2.0–3.0 × 0.5–0.8 mm, margin entire, apex subacute. Capitulum 5.0–7.0 mm long, involucre cylindric; involucre bracts 10–14, 1–2-seriate, upper surface glabrous, underside moderately to densely hairy, margins entire, apex acute to subacute; outer bracts 2.0–2.8 × 0.8–1.1 mm, narrowly triangular to elliptic; inner bracts 3.3–4.0 × 0.6–1.1 mm, lanceolate to narrow triangular. Florets 7–11 per capitulum; corolla usually cream to buff, sometimes pale yellow. Pistillate florets 3–5. Hermaphrodite florets 3–7. Style 4.5–5.5 mm long; stigmatic arms 0.4–0.6 mm long. Ovary 0.8–1.6 × 0.4–0.6 mm. Anthers 1.3–1.5 mm long, white, dehiscent in bud, apex apiculate; filaments 0.5–0.6 mm long, inserted at top of corolla tube. Seeds 1.2–2.1 × 0.6–0.8 mm, narrow-cylindric, light brown, with 4–5 pale ribs, sparsely to moderately hairy; pappus 2.2–3.3 mm long, off-white to buff, finely scabrid.

SIMILAR TAXA

Olearia telmatica is closely related. It differs from *hakapiri* by its restriction to permanently flooded swamp habitats, smaller stature, slender trunk, narrower leaves, lemon-yellow and less hairy corolla, less branched inflorescence with fewer capitula, fulvous hairs on the inflorescence, earlier flowering season, readily dispersed seed, and abscising inflorescences

FLOWERING

November – January

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

FRUITING

January – June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from semi-hardwood cuttings and fresh seed. Fast growing and an excellent shelter belt. This species rarely flowers in the northern part of New Zealand.

THREATS

The wood of this tree is used for fence posts and as firewood.

ETYMOLOGY

olearia: Named after Johann Gottfried Olearius, a 17th-century German scholar, writer of hymns and author of *Specimen Florae Hallensis*

traversiorum: Named after William Thomas Locke Travers (1819-1903) who was an Irish lawyer, magistrate, politician, explorer, naturalist, photographer. He lived in New Zealand from 1849 and was a fellow of the Linnean Society.

COMMON NAMES

This tree has long been known by the name 'akeake', that name has caused some confusion because of the unclear relationship with the unrelated *Dodonaea viscosa* (Sapindaceae) known in New Zealand as 'akeake'. In part to resolve this confusion *Olearia traversiorum* has become more widely known as 'Chatham Island akeake'. Recently it has been pointed out that the Moriori name for this Chatham Islands endemic is 'hakapiri'. On advice from the Moriori imi Hokotehi this name is now used preferentially here.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange (12 December 2008). Description based on Heenan et al. (2008).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J.; Houlston, G.J.; Murray, B.G. 2008: *Olearia telmatica* (Asteraceae: Astereae), a new tree species endemic to the Chatham Islands. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46: 567-583.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/olearia-traversiorum/>