

Pseudopanax chathamicus

COMMON NAME

hoho, Chatham Island lancewood

SYNONYMS

Pseudopanax chathamicum (nom. illegit.)

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudopanax chathamicus Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PSECHA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small tree with long narrow thick and fleshy leaves found only on the Chatham Islands

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Chatham Islands only.

HABITAT

A tree species found in most Chatham Island forests, more common in coastal forest where the soil is moist for much of the year. Hoho often occurs in gullies or on gentle slopes, with karamu and matipo.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Mature trees, Chatham (Rekohu) Island, Tuku Nature Reserve. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Pseudopanax chathamicus flowers. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small tree to 7(-12) m tall, lower trunk us. unbranched, branchlets fleshy. Leaves alternate, leaflets absent, ascending-spreading (not deflexed in young plants). Petioles c. 15-20 cm long, sheathing branchlet at base. Leaves of juvenile 5-15 cm long, lanceolate to oblong, cuneately narrowed to short petiole, acute to subacute, coarsely serrate in upper part only; leaves of young adult thicker, subcoriaceous, 15-30 x 3-3.5 cm, variable in shape on same plant, oblong to elliptic- to obovate-oblong, distinctly apiculate, margins serrate to sinuate to nearly entire; adult leaves similar but shorter (10-15 cm long), thicker, margins smoother, and on petiole 10-20 mm long, midrib prominent, veins evident. Inflorescence an umbel, terminal, compound; staminate (male) with 5-10 primary rays, c. 5 cm long, flowers racemously arranged; pistillate (female) with shorter primary rays, umbellules 2-5 (or more) flowered. Ovary 5-loculed, 5-ovuled, style branches connate. Fruit fleshy, broad-oblong, 6-5 mm diam., rounded style branches retained on an apical disc, very dark purple. Seeds 5 per fruit (often only 1 or 2 viable), grooved on lateral face, 4-6(-7) mm long.

FLOWERING

October - May

FRUITING

November - September

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Can be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings, though these can be slow to strike. An excellent small tree, which prefers full sun, and should be planted in a deep, damp, fertile soil

ETYMOLOGY

pseudopanax: False cure

chathamicus: From the Chathams

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

The name *Pseudopanax chathamicum* (nom. illegit.) provided in the Flora NZ Vol. 1 (Allan 1961) has the incorrect gender suffix.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange 28 May 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of NZ, Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudopanax-chathamicus/>