

Pseudopanax discolor

SYNONYMS

Panax discolor Kirk

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudopanax discolor (Kirk) Harms

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PSEDIS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Shrubby small tree with toothed leaves in groups of three at the end of long stems

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island. Northland to upper Waikato region.

HABITAT

Coastal and lowland forest and shrubland. Sealevel to c. 750 m a.s.l. A common component of the sites it inhabits

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrubby much-branched small tree to 5 m tall, branchlets fleshy, brittle, bark pale brown, lenticels prominent. Leaves alternate; Petioles 2-8 cm long; leaflets (1-)3(-5), palmate, thinly coriaceous, dark green to bronze or yellowish green above, paler purplish green below, obovate- to elliptic-cuneate, coarsely and sharply serrate, midrib and lateral veins prominent, darker. Terminal leaflet 4-8 x 1.5-2.5 cm, on short (c. 5 mm) petiolule, lateral leaflets sessile. Inflorescence a diffuse terminal umbel; staminate (male) with 4-10 rays, 3-8 cm long, racemously arranged; pistillate (female) with rays 2-5 cm long, umbellules irregular, 2-6 flowered. Ovary 5-loculed, each containing 1 ovule (some aborted); style branches 5, connate, tips free. Fruit fleshy, oblong, 6.5 mm long, style branches retained on an apical disc, dark purple when ripe. Seeds 4-5 per fruit, easily broadly ovate, grooved, 4.5-5.5 mm long.



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



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

SIMILAR TAXA

Only usually confused with *Pseudopanax arboreus* which usually has 5 leaflets. *Pseudopanax colensoi* var. *ternata* also has three leaflets but these are larger and thicker.

FLOWERING

November-February

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

FRUITING

November-February

ETYMOLOGY

pseudopanax: False cure

discolor: Two colours or of different colours; from the latin dis and color; different colours of the leaf surfaces

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961).

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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