

# Pseudopanax gilliesii

## FAMILY

Araliaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pseudopanax gilliesii* Kirk

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small tree with a mix of single or 3 leathery leaflets on stalks that become much longer in the lower part of the twigs.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Northeastern Northland

## HABITAT

Coastal or lowland hardwood forest and shrubland

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrubby much-branched small tree to 5 m tall; branchlets slender, fleshy, brittle, light green to purpled; bark pale brown, lenticels prominent. Leaves alternate, unifoliate intermixed with trifoliate or irregularly lobed leaves; Petioles 2–8 cm long; lamina coriaceous, glossy green above, paler green below, c. 4–8 cm long, ovate, acute to acuminate, sharply serrate, on long slender petioles to 14 cm long in lower part of branchlet, trifoliate leaflets sessile or on very short petiolule; midvein prominent, lateral veins obvious. Inflorescence a terminal umbel; primary rays 3–6, c. 8 cm long, flowers racemously arranged. Ovary 5-loculed, each containing 1 ovule (some aborted); style branches 5, connate. Fruit fleshy, subglobose, 6 x 5 mm, style branches retained on an apical disc, dark purple when ripe. Seeds 5 per fruit, narrowly ovate, 5.5–6.5 mm long.



Fruit. Auckland. Feb 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



*Pseudopanax gilliesii* shrub. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to *Pseudopanax discolor* from which it differs by the alternating whorls of unifoliate to trifoliate rather than 5-foliate leaves, which are much thicker, more finely serrated and usually uniformly dark green to light green rather than green to yellow green, variously spotted or stained maroon. Aside from these differences the ranges of *P. gilliesii* and *P. discolor* don't overlap. *Pseudopanax gilliesii* might be confused with *P. lessonii*, with which it co-occurs. *Pseudopanax lessonii* is however a taller tree species, with much thicker 5-foliate or trifoliate leaves with shallower toothings restricted to the distal 3/4 of the lamina.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green

## THREATS

Probably a species naturally restricted to the northeastern non-basaltic Northland volcanics. Some habitat has been lost in the past to coastal development. Reports of this species occurring on Hauturu o Toi / Little Barrier Island are based on collections of what appears to be *Pseudopanax discolor* or perhaps a hybrid between that species and *P. lessonii*. *Pseudopanax gilliesii* is not found on that island/

## ETYMOLOGY

**pseudopanax:** False cure

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb and 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

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pseudopanax gilliesii* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudopanax-gilliesii/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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