

# Pseudowintera axillaris

## COMMON NAME

lowland horopito, lowland pepper tree

## SYNONYMS

*Drimys axillaris* J.R.Forst. et G.Forst., *Drimys axillaris* J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.  
var. *axillaris*, *Wintera axillaris* G.Forst., *Wintera terminalis* Tiegh.

## FAMILY

Winteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pseudowintera axillaris* (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) Dandy

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

PSEAXI

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 86

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Pungent leaved small shrub with wavy shiny green leaves that are pale underneath

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. Scarce north of Auckland, extending to near Westport on the west of the South Island

## HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest. From near sea level.



Boulder Hill, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 28/05/2005, Licence: CC BY.



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

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub or small tree up to 7 m tall; trunks and branches upright; bark dark; branchlets dark. Plants glabrous. Petiole slender, 2 cm long, dark reddish brown. Leaves alternate, pungent, 6-10 x 3-6 cm, upper surface glossy, dark green to yellowish-green, without blemishes or blotches; midvein conspicuous, pale; lamina elliptic-oblong to elliptic-obovate to ovate-oblong to lanceolate rhomboid, margin undulate, obtuse to subacute, coriaceous; undersides pale to glaucous but not white; midvein pale. Inflorescences axillary, flowers bisexual, c. 1 cm diam., in fascicles of 1-5- (10), on slender pedicels 5-10 mm long. Calyx cupule margins sub-entire to shallowly lobed. Corolla comprised of 5- (6) free petals, these 5-6 mm long, narrow-oblong to narrow-obovate, greenish yellow, apex obtuse. Carpels 1-6, stigma apical. Stamens 6-20. Fruit a 3-6-seeded fleshyglobose to subglobose berry, 5-6 mm diam., orange to orange-red. Seed 3-angled, obovate to elliptic, 2.5-3.9 mm, surface irregular (showing striping under very high magnification).

## SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other *Pseudowintera* species from which it can be distinguished by leaf size and the absence of blotching and colour and non-white undersurface of the leaf

## FLOWERING

September-December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

## FRUITING

October-January (some fruit may be retained until June)

## THREATS

Not Threatened. Unpalatable to browsers

## ETYMOLOGY

**pseudowintera**: False *Wintera* (a related genus)

**axillaris**: Axilled

## NOTES ON TAXONOMY

The Winteraceae is one of the most primitive families of the flowering plants and flower parts are relatively un-specialised.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Heenan et al. (2006) and Eagle (2006).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Government Printer, Wellington

Heenan, P.B, de Lange, P.J. 2006. *Pseudowintera insperata* (Winteraceae), an overlooked and rare new species from northern New Zealand. NZ J. Botany 44: 89-98

Eagle, A. 2000. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of NZ. Te Papa Press, 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/pseudowintera-axillaris/>