Quintinia serrata

COMMON NAME
tāwheowheo, quintinia

SYNONYMS
Quintinia acutifolia Kirk, Quintinia elliptica Hook.f.

FAMILY
Paracryphiaceae

AUTHORITY
Quintinia serrata A.Cunn.

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE
QUISER

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2017 │ Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2012 │ Not Threatened
2009 │ Not Threatened
2004 │ Not Threatened

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

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Tree with spotted twigs bearing wavy purple-spotted leaves and spikes of small whiteish flowers which develop into a dry capsule. Twigs with circular scales (lens needed). Leaves 20-160mm long by 10-50mm wide, margin smooth or with scattered teeth, edge wavy.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands (from about Kaitaia south to Wellington; in the South Island mostly westerly in the South Island to about Martins Bay)

HABITAT
Coastal to montane usually in forest, in the northern part of its range often confined to cooler valley heads and ridge lines or prominent on the summits of major ranges and peaks (in so called "cloud forest"). In the southern part of its range extending into coastal forest where it may form a major part of the forest understorey and/or canopy in disturbed sites

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
UPL: Obligate Upland
Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Small tree up to 12 m tall; trunk up to 500 mm d.b.h. Bark greyish-white to grey-brown, often mottled and covered with small lichens, mosses and liverworts. branches ascending. Young branchlets, leaves, peduncles and pedicels ± viscid and invested with lepidote ± scurfy scales. Leaves alternate, exstipulate, yellow-green to dark green usually blotched dark maroon sometimes not, borne on petioles up to 20 mm long; lamina 20-160 × 10-50 mm, narrowly lanceolate, oblanceolate, narrowly oblong, elliptic, broadly elliptic-obovate to obovate-cuneate, apex obtuse, subacute to acute, margins weakly to strongly undulose or flat, obscurely to distinctly serrate, or entire (if serrate then serration apices distinctly glandular). Inflorescences racemose, axillary or terminal. Racemes 35-80 mm long, pedicels c.3-4 mm long; Flowers gynodioecious, 3-7 mm diameter, calyx tube adnate to ovary, lobes persistent; petals 1.5-3·5 mm long, white to whitish-pink, obovate-oblong, narrow ovate to ovate-oblong, imbricate; female flowers with 5 rudimentary stamen (often reduced to staminodes, sometimes completely absent); ovary 3-5-celled, style persistent; stigmas capitate, 3-5-lobed; hermaphrodite flowers similar but with 5 functional stamens and functional gynoecium. Capsules 3-5-valved, 4-6 mm long, including style, obovoid, ellipsoid or oblong. Seeds 1.3-2.0 mm long, narrowly ovate, elliptic, ovate-elliptic to oblong, compressed, surface glabrous, finely reticulate with elongated cells, orange-brown to brown.

SIMILAR TAXA
None. The distinctive maroon mottled yellowish green leaves, scurfy, lepidote scales covering the young branchlets, leaves, peduncles and pedicels, and white to pinkish-white flowers borne in racemes readily distinguish Quintinia from any other New Zealand indigenous tree.

FLOWERING
September - March

FLOWER COLOURS
White

FRUITING
November - June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Difficult. Best grown from fresh seed although results vary. Does well in a shaded or semi-shaded situation planted in a deep, moist, fertile soil. Plants are prone to sudden collapse, especially during periods of drought. However, as with seed germination results vary and some people find cultivation of Quintinia easy, others not.

ETYMOLOGY
quintinia: Named after the 17th century French horticulturist Jean (Johannis) de la Quintinie (Quintinye)
serrata: Saw-toothed

WHERE TO BUY
Occasionally offered by specialist native plant nurseries.

TAXONOMIC NOTES
Quintinia is extremely variable and some extremes have been known by the species names Q. acutifolia and Q. elliptica. In this Fact Sheet the view expressed by Eagle (1982, 2006) and Dawson & Lucas (2011) is followed, in that one species, Q. serrata is accepted. However, a proper study of the variation in Quintinia is still needed to confirm that there is indeed just the one species. The main distinguishing character between the three species accepted by Allan (1961) leaf shape, varies sometimes within populations but definitely from north to south and east to west, suggesting the three species are part of a natural cline. Interestingly Webb & Simpson (2001) maintain two species (Q. acutifolia and Q. serrata) on the basis of minor differences in seed size; they do not accept Q. elliptica which they consider indistinguishable from Q. acutifolia.

ATTRIBUTION
Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange January 2012. Description adapted from Allan (1961), Dawson & Lucas (2011) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Dawson, J.; Lucas, R. 2011: New Zealand's Native Trees. Craig Potton Publishing, Nelson.

Eagle, A.L. 1982: Eagle's trees and shrubs of New Zealand, second series. Collins, Auckland.

Eagle, A.L. 2006: Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of New Zealand. Te Papa Press, Wellington.

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/quintinia-serrata/