

# Rubus schmidelioides var. subpauperatus

## COMMON NAME

tātārāmoa, bush lawyer, white-leaved lawyer

## SYNONYMS

*Rubus subpauperatus* Cockayne; *Rubus cissoides* var. *subpauperatus* (Cockayne) Cheeseman

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Rubus schmidelioides* var. *subpauperatus* (Cockayne) Allan

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

RUBSUB

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Scrambling vine. Stems, petioles, midveins densely covered in red prickles. Leaves compound; leaflets three to five, very narrowly lance-shaped, leathery, dark-green to bronze green, markedly wrinkled above with the undersides covered in grey-white or brown tomentum. Flowers white or cream in small panicles. Fruits yellow or orange.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South and Stewart Islands. In the South Island, mostly in the east from Canterbury South.

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane in scrub and forest. Often in grey scrub



Strath Taieri. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Much-branched dioecious vine with stems up to 10 m or more long when growing through supporting vegetation or forming sprawling bushes with interlacing branchlets when exposed. Young branchlets terete, up to 40 mm diameter; pubescent, becoming glabrous with age, armed (often heavily so); armature comprised of small, reddish prickles. Stipules minute, caducous, linear to linear-filiform. Leaves of adults ternate or palmate, petioles 20-50 mm long, covered in prickles; lamina of adult leaflets 20-50 × 5-10 mm, coriaceous, lanceolate, to narrowly lanceolate-elliptic, acute to subacute, rounded to oblique at base, margins coarsely and often unevenly serrate, adaxially dark green to bronze-green, more or less glossy, glabrous or almost glabrous, rugose to bullate, veins distinct (these often minutely pubescent), abaxially pale green, sometimes glaucous, usually finely, densely tomentose, tomentum grey-white to brown, veins prominent below, pubescent, midrib heavily; petiolules 3-5(-20 mm long). Inflorescence a much-branched panicle up to 100 mm long (rarely reduced to few-flowered racemes), branchlets and pedicels unarmed, more or less finely pubescent. Flowers white to cream, usually densely aggregate, on pedicels 5-10 mm long. Sepals 2-6 mm long, ovate-oblong to broad-ovate, pubescent; petals 5, 4-7 mm long, ovate to broadly ovate. Male flowers with numerous stamens, ovary absent or rudimentary. Female flowers with rudimentary stamen, carpels numerous. Fruits 5-9 mm diameter, drupelets 8-12 (or more), yellow or orange. Endocarp 'seed' 1.9-2.5 mm long, dorsally ridged 2x.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from introduced *Rubus* (blackberries, raspberries wineberries etc) by the smaller flowers, usually palmate or ternate leaves, and the lack of long glandular bristly hairs on the young stems. *Rubus schmidelioides* var. *subpauperatus* differs from var. *schmidelioides* by the more conspicuously armed stems, petioles and leaf midveins, ternate to palmate leaves, by the narrowly lanceolate leaflets, and more compact panicles.

## FLOWERING

September - November

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

## FRUITING

December - April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from layered stems and semi-hardwood cuttings. Flourishes when planted in damp ground in a well-lighted situation. Poorly known from cultivation. The fruits though edible are insipid.

## ETYMOLOGY

**rubus:** From the Latin meaning bramble

**schmidelioides:** Like *schmidelia*, a soap wort

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

*Rubus schmidelioides* var. *subpauperatus* was accepted as distinct by Allan (1961) but dismissed by Webb et al. (1988). Nevertheless this variety has been upheld by a range of more recent publications, e.g., Eagle (2006). As the primary distinctions of var. *subpauperatus*; leaflet number, size, shape and degree of armature do seem distinct, then, pending a modern taxonomic revision of New Zealand *Rubus*, recognition of this variety is probably still warranted.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (5 November 2016). Description based on Allan (1961), Webb et al. (1988) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

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

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

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

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rubus-schmidelioides-var-subpauperatus/> (Date website was queried)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rubus-schmidelioides-var-subpauperatus/>