

Fuscospora fusca

COMMON NAME

red beech

SYNONYMS

Fagus fusca Hook. f., *Nothofagus fusca* (Hook.f.) Oerst.

FAMILY

Nothofagaceae

AUTHORITY

Fuscospora fusca (Hook.f.) Heenan et Smissen

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

NOTFUS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 26

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tall forest tree bearing masses of small sharply-toothed leaves that also have a small hairy pit at the junction of the veins. Trunk flaky. Leaves 2–4 cm long. Flowers and fruit small and usually inconspicuous but change colour of tree when in flower.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from latitude 37° southwards, except Mount Taranaki), South Island.

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Cobb Valley. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kaitoke Ridge Track, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/05/2007, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree up to 30 metres tall; trunk up to 2 metres or more in diameter, often strongly buttressed. **Leaves** rather thin, coriaceous, 20–40 × 15–25 mm., on petioles up to 4 mm. long; lamina glabrous except on veins below, broad-ovate to ovate-oblong, coarsely, rather deeply sharply serrate with 6–8 pairs of teeth; venation distinct; fringed domatia 1–2 in basal vein axils. **Staminate inflorescences** 1–8 per branchlet; peduncles glabrous, up to 4 mm long, bearing 1–3 or rarely 5 subsessile flowers. Perianth 5 mm long, campanulate; shallowly obtusely 5 lobed, sparsely to rather densely pubescent. Stamens 8–11; anthers 3 mm long, red, yellow, or straw coloured. **Pistillate inflorescences** 1–5 per branchlet, sessile, ovoid to globose, 3 mm. long, glabrate, usually 3-flowered. Lateral flowers trimerous, terminal dimerous; stigmas ligulate, distinctly bilobed. Cupule pubescent, 4-partite; segments attenuate, up to 10 mm. long; glands between segments and bracts. **Nuts** 7 mm long, triquetrous or flat; wings broad at base, attenuate.

FLOWERING

September–December

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

FRUITING

November–March

ETYMOLOGY

fusca: Brown tinged with grey or black

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.
- Anonymous. 1957. Construction of key for the genus *Nothofagus*. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 14: 2–3.
- Greenwood RM. 1951. The Red Beech. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 25: 6–9.
- Heenan PB, Smissen RD. 2013. Revised circumscription of *Nothofagus* and recognition of the segregate genera *Fuscospora*, *Lophozonia*, and *Trisyngyne* (Nothofagaceae). *Phytotaxa* 146: 1–31.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.146.1.1>.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/fuscospora-fusca/>