

Raukaua anomalus

SYNONYMS

Pseudopanax anomalus (Hook.) Philipson; *Neopanax anomalum* (Hook.) Allan; *Panax anomalum* Hook.; *Nothopanax anomalum* (Hook.) Seem

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Raukaua anomalus (Hook.f.) A.D.Mitch., Frodin et Heads

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

RAUANO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.24

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Bushy small-leaved shrub with hairy branchlets and flattened leaf stalks

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Island. Widespread, but often localised

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest margins and shrubland. Near sea level to 900 m.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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



Pinehaven, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 12/01/2005, Licence: CC BY.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub to 3 m tall; branchlets hairy with stiff dark bristles, densely divaricating, interlacing; bark grey. Leaves alternate or fascicled, in juvenile plants 3-foliolate; adult leaves single; stipules absent. Petioles of juvenile winged, to 2.5 cm long, 5 mm long in adult, jointed to lamina; minute straw coloured scales at petiole base and internodes. Lamina 1-2 x 1-1.5 cm, obovate-oblong to suborbicular, crenate to sinuate, often mucronate, subcoriaceous, often with dark blotch at base; margin irregularly serrate to sinuate in juvenile, sinuate to minutely crenate in adult, teeth often terminating in a soft point; veins indistinct. Inflorescence axillary, a simple umbel, 2-10 flowered; rays short. Flowers small, green, hermaphroditic, passing through various stages; calyx minutely 5-toothed; ovary 2-loculed, each with 1 ovule; style branches 2, free at tips, connate; stamens 5, projecting, < petals. Fruit fleshy, 4-5 mm wide, laterally compressed, green ripening to either dark brown, blotched reddish purple, or pale cream; style bases retained on apical disc. Seeds 2 per fruit, broadly ovate or oblong and straight along ventral edge, surface irregularly ridged and dimpled, 2.4-3.8 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Vegetatively most similar to either *Melicope simplex*, which has glabrous branchlets, or *Aristotelia fruticosa*, which has leaf veins obvious below, or *Melicytus micranthus*, which has a pale blotch at the leaf base.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

ETYMOLOGY

raukaua: From the Maori name for *R. edgerleyi*, *raukawa*

anomalus: From the Greek *anomalia* 'unusual'

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

Recently Frodin & Govaerts (2003) transferred the Chilean species *Pseudopanax laetevirens* (Miq.) Ball and Tasmanian *P. gunnii* (Hook.f.) K.Koch to *Raukawa*.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Eagle (2000), Frodin and Govaerts (2003), Moorfield (2005), Webb and Simpson (2001) and Wilson and Galloway (1993).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Eagle, A. 2000. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of NZ. Te Papa Press, Wellington

Frodin, D.G.; Govaerts, R. 2003: World Checklist and Bibliography of Araliaceae, The Cromwell Press, European Union.

Moorfield, J. C. (2005). *Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index*. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.

Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. *Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons*. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

Wilson, H & Galloway, T. 1993. *Small-leaved shrubs of NZ*. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/raukaua-anomalus/>