

Raukaua edgerleyi

COMMON NAME

raukawa

SYNONYMS

Panax edgerleyi Hook.f., *Nothopanax edgerleyi* (Hook.f.) Harms, *Pseudopanax edgerleyi* (Hook.f.) C.Koch in C.Koch et Fint; *Raukaua edgerleyi* var. *edgerleyi* (Hook.f.) Seem.

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Raukaua edgerleyi (Hook.f.) Seem.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

RAUEDG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.24

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: CD, RF

2004 | Gradual Decline

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tree with fragrant glossy adult leaves on long petioles and juveniles with uneven leaves arranged like fingers on a hand

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North (Kaitaia southwards), South and Stewart Islands. Scattered and infrequent.

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest. Near sea level to 900 m a.s.l.



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 25/12/2004, Licence: CC BY.



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 25/12/2004, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree 10-12 m tall; glabrous, branchlets ascending, bark cream to pale grey, rough. Leaves alternate, in juvenile plants 3-5-foliolate; adult leaves single; stipules absent. Petioles of juvenile to 10 cm long, 1.5-5 cm long in adults, reddish. Juvenile lamina 5-15 x 1.5-3.5 cm, linear oblong, deeply lobed, lobes acuminate to acute, terminal lamina subsessile or shortly petiolulate, thin. Adult lamina becoming entire, 5-10 cm long, membranous to subcoriaceous, obovate to elliptic-oblong, acuminate to obtuse, base cuneate, shiny dark green above, paler below, veins visible above and below, midrib raised, green above, reddish below and often bearing small hooks, aromatic when crushed. Inflorescence axillary, a raceme bearing three or more 10-15 flowered umbellules on short peduncles. Flowers 4-5 mm in diameter, green, in male or female clusters on same raceme; calyx minutely 5-toothed; ovary 2-4-carpellate; style branches (2)-3-4, connate, free at tips; stamens 5, projecting, < petals. Fruit fleshy, 3-4 mm, globose, green ripening to dark purple; style bases retained on apical disc. Seeds 3-5 per fruit, ovate to broadly ovate, straight along ventral edge, surface irregularly ridged and dimpled, 2.0-3.4(-3.7) mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Juveniles often confused with juvenile *Schefflera digitata*, which usually has around 7 leaflets and the lobes are finely toothed. Adult may be confused with *Raukua simplex*, whose leaflets are toothed and are not aromatic when crushed.

FLOWERING

September to December

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

FRUITING

October to March but some fruit may be present throughout the year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. Can be tricky to maintain. Likes damp soils and a semi-shaded situation, but in cooler and wetter climates it will grow in exposed situations.

THREATS

Heavily browsed by mammalian browsers. Consequently infrequently encountered throughout its range

ETYMOLOGY

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

edgerleyi: Named after John Edgerley (1814 - 1849) who spent time in New Zealand and Australia

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

Mitchell et al. accepted var. *serratus* (T.Kirk)A.D.Mitchell, D.Frodin et M.Heads for plants on Stewart Island and western Fiordland with adult leaves coarsely serrate and 2-3 carpellate ovaries. However plants with these characters can be found elsewhere and adult plants with entire leaves are also found on Stewart Island. It is possible that var. *serratus* is of hybrid origin.

ATTRIBUTION

Description by M.J. Thorsen 29 October 2010 adapted from the references cited below.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Mitchell, A.D, Frodin, D.G, Heads, M.J. 1997. Reinstatement of *Raukua*, a genus of the Araliaceae centred on New Zealand. NZ J. Botany 305: 309-315

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

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.

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/raukua-edgerleyi/>