



Phormium cookianum subsp. *hookeri*

Common Name(s):

Mountain flax, wharariki

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. Common throughout New Zealand. Local in Northland. And often found inland on cliff faces and exposed rock ledges in the northern part of its range, becoming the dominant coastal flax south of Paekakariki.

Habitat:

Common from lowland and coastal areas through montane forest to subalpine habitats, usually but not exclusively on cliff faces and open rocky or boulder-strewn ground.

Features:

Stout liliaceous herb, 1-1.5(-2) m tall. Leaves numerous, arising from fan-like bases. Individual leaves stiff near base and semi-erect, becoming decurved or pendulous from basal third to half of length, 1(-1.5) x 20-80 mm, olive-green to yellow-green. Lamina margin, entire, somewhat thickened and finely pigmented red, orange-red or black. Inflorescence 1(-2) m tall, somewhat woody and fleshy when fresh, long persistent, drying pale grey, with the fibrous interior becoming progressively more exposed. Peduncle 20-30 mm diam., inclined, red-green to grey-green, glabrous. Flowers 25-40 mm long, tubular, greenish or yellow, sometimes flushed orange; tips of inner tepals markedly recurved. Ovary erect. Capsules 100-200 mm long, dark green, trigonous in cross-section, pendulous, tapering toward tip, twisted, initially fleshy becoming papery with age, long persistent. Seeds 8-10 x 4-5 mm, black, elliptic, flat and plate-like, margins frilled or twisted.

Flowering:

(September-) October-
November (-January)

Fruiting:

(November-)
December (-March)

Threats:

Not Threatened

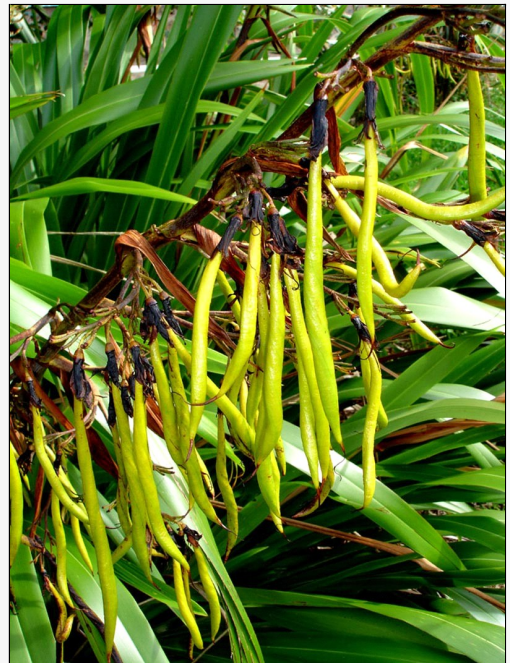
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1111



Caption: *Phormium cookianum* subsp. *hookeri*

Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Caption: *Phormium cookianum* subsp. *hookeri* fruits

Photographer: Peter de Lange