



## *Podocarpus acutifolius*

### Common Name(s):

Westland totara, needle-leaved totara

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (mostly westerly from the Buller River and adjoining tributaries, west and south to Martins Bay)

### Habitat:

Lowland to montane along river flats, in forest or open shrubland and grassland. Often forming dense thickets along active and passive river channels.

### Features\*:

Shrub or small tree up to 15 m tall, Trunk often several (due to suckering from base), main trunk up to 0.4 m diameter breast height Bark somewhat chartaceous, stringy and thin, flaking readily in long or short strips. Branches erect, slender up to 9 m. Branchlets erect, slender initially densely leafy, leaves shedding along branchlet with age. Leaves 15.0-23.0 × 0.75-3.5 mm, dark green to yellow-green, linear, acuminate, pungent, mid-vein indistinct; stomatal lines often conspicuous. Male strobili axillary, solitary or up to 4 together on common peduncle 2-3 mm long; peduncle furnished above with 2 narrow-triangular keeled scales and below with 4 ovate scales; strobilus 10-20 mm long; apiculus obtuse. Ovules solitary or in pairs on peduncle c.1 mm long; receptacle 2.5-7.0 mm long, red irregularly elliptic-oblong to obovate-oblong, slightly compressed, smooth, swollen (fleshy). Seeds solitary or paired, 4.0-5.5 mm long, green when fresh, elliptic to ovate-elliptic, slightly asymmetric, narrow-acuminate, blunt or subacute.

### Flowering:

September - November

### Fruiting:

December - June

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 4 January 2012. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

### References and further reading:

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

Wardle, P. 1972: *Podocarpus totara* var. *waihoensis* var. nov. : the result of introgressive hybridisation between *P. totara* and *P. acutifolius*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 10: 195-201.

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

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1173](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1173)



**Caption:** *Podocarpus acutifolius*

**Photographer:** Peter de Lange



**Caption:** *Podocarpus acutifolius*

**Photographer:** John Barkla