



## *Podocarpus totara* var. *waihoensis*

### Common Name(s):

Totara, Westland Totara

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. Confined to the West Coast of the South Island, from about the Waiho River south to the Cascades.

### Habitat:

Common in riparian and alluvial forest on poorly drained, flood-prone river terraces. Seemingly preferring recent soils overlying gravels.

### Features\*:

Dioecious, suckering conifer up to 10-15 m tall. Usually multi-trunked from base with 2-3(-numerous) erect, stilt-like trunks. These stout, (0.2-)1-1.5 m diam., clad in firm, furrowed and somewhat stringy reddish-grey bark, branches stout, erect to somewhat spreading. Leaf bud narrower than or the same diam., as branchlet, surrounded by caducous, papery, narrowly lanceolate bracts. Leaves dark brownish-green to almost purple-brown, erect, leathery; 15-25 x 7-0.75-40 mm., linear, linear-lanceolate, acute to acuminate, apex pungent, mid-vein indistinct, stomatal lines obvious. Male cones (strobili) axillary 10-20 mm, solitary or in 4s. Female branchlets axillary, ovules solitary or paired, receptacle of 2-4 obtuse scales, somewhat subacute and free at tips, these maturing as a red, swollen, succulent, sweet tasting "fruit" surmounted by a 1(-2) broadly elliptic, ovoid-oblong 3-6 mm, semi-glossy, buff, grey nut brown, henna or dark brown (green to glaucous-green) when fresh, seed.

### Flowering:

(August-) October  
(-December)

### Fruiting:

Fruits take a year or so to ripen, and may be found throughout the year, usually peaking at about the same time that cones are produced. They are most frequently seen between April and May

### Threats:

Not Threatened. However this variety is only known from the southern half of the West Coast.

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 January 2007. Description adapted from Wardle (1972) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

### References and further reading:

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.

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

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1177](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1177)



**Caption:** Cook R. Westland, Jan.

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



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