



## *Prumnopitys taxifolia*

### **Common Name(s):**

Matai, black pine

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Not Threatened

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands. Uncommon on Stewart Island.

### **Habitat:**

Lowland forest. Often in drier climates, where it can dominate alluvial soils which are waterlogged/flooded in winter and dry in summer. Seems to prefer base-rich substrates and soils.

### **Features\*:**

Dioecious conifer 25(-30) m tall. Trunk 1-2 m diam. Bark dark brown (almost black), falling in thick circular flakes, leaving a distinctive hammer-like scar patterning on trunk. Wood dark brown to rich yellow-brown, very hard. Juveniles filiramulate, with distinctive, dark brown, slender, flexuous, divaricating branchlets. Leaves brown, pale yellow, or dirty white, 5-10 x 1-2 mm, linear-lanceolate, apex acute; adults dark green, somewhat glaucous above, glaucous below, 10-15 x 1-2 mm, subdistichous, linear, straight to subfalcate, obtuse, often apiculate. Male cones (strobili) in spikes, 30-50 mm long, with 10-30 cones per spike. Ovules on short axillary branches, 3-10 per 40 mm long spike. Fruit a fleshy, oily, aromatic, terpene-tasting, purple-black drupe with a glaucous bloom. Stone more or less circular (5.5-)6-8.5 mm diam., surface dull to semi-glossy, pale orange-yellow to light orange-yellow.

### **Flowering:**

(October-) November -  
February

### **Fruiting:**

Fruits take 12-18 months to mature. Ripe fruits may be found throughout the year.

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened, although as a forest-type it has been greatly reduced through widespread logging. Very few intact examples of matai-dominated forest remain in the country.

### **\*Attribution:**

Prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN, 3 February 2006. Description based on Allan (1961)

### **References and further reading:**

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

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1193](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1193)



**Caption:** Matai with female cones

**Photographer:** Bill Clarkson



**Caption:** Cones of *Prumnopitys taxifolia* (male)

**Photographer:** Wayne Bennett