



Pseudopanax colensoi var. *colensoi*

Common Name(s):

Mountain five-finger, three finger

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Central North Island and Coromandel Range south to Banks Peninsula (and possibly Dunedin) on South Island east coast. Apparently absent from South Island West Coast. Plants with sessile leaflets from the Fiordland-Stewart Island area are often referred to *Pseudopanax colensoi* var. *fiordensis* Wardle

Habitat:

Montane to low alpine forest and scrub

Features*:

Us. dioecious. Small multi-branched tree to 8 m tall, branchlets fleshy brittle. Leaves alternate, leaflets (3-)5(-7), palmate, subsessile or on short petiolules. Petioles 5-20 cm long, sheathing branchlet at base and with small erect stipule. Petiolules absent or short, of terminal leaflet to 0-5-10-(15) mm long, shorter on lateral leaflets, pale green, reddish at base. Leaflets narrow-ovate to broadly elliptic-oblong, cuneately narrowing to petiolule, thinly coriaceous, coarsely serrate-dentate in upper 2/3 - 3/4, acute to obtuse; midrib obvious above and below, lateral veins obscure; darker shiny green above; terminal lamina 5-17 x 2-11 cm, lateral leaflets decreasing in size. Inflorescence a terminal umbel; c. 8 primary rays (branchlets); 10-12 secondary rays; umbellules with 5-10 flowers in each. Calyx truncate or obscurely 5-toothed; flowers c. 5 mm diam.; petals 5, cream or greenish, ovate to triangular, acute; ovary 2-loculed, each containing 1 ovules; style branches 2. Fruit fleshy, 4-6 mm diam., style branches retained on an apical disc, dark purple when ripe. Seeds 2 per fruit, shallowly wrinkled, 2.9-4.3 mm long, rounded.

Flowering:

October-March

Fruiting:

October-March

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description adapted from Wardle (1968), Allan (1961), Webb and Simpson (2001).

References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of NZ, Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington

Wardle, P. 1968. The taxonomy and distribution of the stipulate species of *Pseudopanax* in New Zealand. NZ J. Botany 6: 226-236

Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1195



Caption: Southern Tararua Range. Sep 2007.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Southern Tararua Range. Sep 2007.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe