



Pseudopanax discolor

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island. Northland to upper Waikato region.

Habitat:

Coastal and lowland forest and shrubland. Sealevel to c. 750 m a.s.l.
A common component of the sites it inhabits

Features*:

Shrubby much-branched small tree to 5 m tall, branchlets fleshy, brittle, bark pale brown, lenticels prominent. Leaves alternate; Petioles 2-8 cm long; leaflets (1-)3(-5), palmate, thinly coriaceous, dark green to bronze or yellowish green above, paler purplish green below, obovate- to elliptic-cuneate, coarsely and sharply serrate, midrib and lateral veins prominent, darker. Terminal leaflet 4-8 x 1.5-2.5 cm, on short (c. 5 mm) petiolule, lateral leaflets sessile. Inflorescence a diffuse terminal umbel; staminate (male) with 4-10 rays, 3-8 cm long, racemously arranged; pistillate (female) with rays 2-5 cm long, umbellules irregular, 2-6 flowered. Ovary 5-loculed, each containing 1 ovule (some aborted); style branches 5, connate, tips free. Fruit fleshy, oblong, 6.5 mm long, style branches retained on an apical disc, dark purple when ripe. Seeds 4-5 per fruit, easily broadly ovate, grooved, 4.5-5.5 mm long.

Flowering:

November-February

Fruiting:

November-February

Threats:

Not Threatened

***Attribution:**

Description adapted from Allan (1961).

References and further reading:

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

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=1197



Caption: *Pseudopanax discolor*
Photographer: Peter de Lange



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