



## *Pseudopanax colensoi* var. *ternatus*

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

South Island. Apparently absent from Banks Peninsula

### Habitat:

50m to 1000 m a.s.l. Cool moist forest and shrubland in damper regions

### Features\*:

Us. dioecious. Small multi-branched tree to 8 m tall, branchlets fleshy brittle. Leaves alternate, leaflets 3, palmate, sessile or subsessile on very short petiolules. Petioles 5-20 cm long, sheathing branchlet at base and with small erect stipule. Petiolules absent or very short, of terminal leaflet to 0-3 mm long, shorter on lateral leaflets, pale green. Leaflets narrow-ovate to broadly elliptic-oblong, cuneately narrowed at base, coriaceous, coarsely serrate-dentate in upper 1/2 - 2/3, 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, obviously wrinkled, 3.5-4.5 mm long.

### Flowering:

October-March

### Fruiting:

October-March

### Threats:

Not Threatened, but leaflets often eaten by possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)

### \*Attribution:

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

### References and further reading:

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

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=1200](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1200)



**Caption:** *Pseudopanax colensoi* var. *ternatus*, Mt Cook

**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Catlins, January

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth