



## *Pseudowintera colorata*

### Common Name(s):

Red horopito, mountain horopito, alpine peppertree

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands

### Habitat:

Coastal, lowland, or montane forest margins and shrubland

### Features\*:

Shrub to 3.5 m tall; trunks and branches upright; bark dark; branchlets dark. Plants glabrous. Petiole slender, 5-10 mm long, dark reddish brown. Leaves alternate, pungent and peppertasting; midvein inconspicuous above, raised below; lamina 2-6(-8) x 1-3 cm, elliptic, margin undulate, tip obtuse to subacute, coriaceous, upper surface matt green to yellowish-green, blotched with red in exposed situations, undersides glaucous to white and often pink-flushed. Inflorescences axillary, flowers bisexual, c. 1 cm diam., in fascicles of 1-3, on slender pedicels 5-10 mm long, bracts ciliate. Calyx cupule margins subtentate to shallowly lobed. Corolla comprised of 5-(6) free petals, these 4-5 mm long, linear to narrow-oblong, greenish yellow, apex obtuse. Carpels 1-5, us. 1-2 maturing, stigma apical. Stamens 5-20. Fruit a 2-3-seeded fleshy globose to subglobose berry, 5-6 mm diam., dark red or black, flesh red. Seed 1- or 3-angled, obovate to elliptic, 2.6-3.6 mm, surface irregular.

### Flowering:

November-March

### Fruiting:

December-June

### Threats:

Not Threatened. Often one of the few shrub species in heavily browsed forests

### \*Attribution:

Description adapted from Allan (1961, Heenan and de Lange (2006), Eagle (2000), Webb and Simpson (2001).

### References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Government Printer, Wellington;

Heenan, P.B, de Lange, P.J. 2006. *Pseudowintera insperata* (Winteraceae), an overlooked and rare new species from northern New Zealand. NZ J. Botany 44: 89-98;

Eagle, A. 2000. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of NZ. Te Papa Press, 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=1201](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1201)



**Caption:** Flowers, South Otago coast  
**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Harbour Cone, Otago Peninsula  
**Photographer:** John Barkla