



Raukaua simplex

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South, Stewart and Aucklands Islands. From Te Moehau (Coromandel) south

Habitat:

Lowland to montane forest and also shrubland at tree line. Near seal level to 1400 m a.s.l.

Features*:

Moneocious. Small much branched tree to 8 m tall; all parts glabrous; bark whiteish grey, branchlets non-fleshy. Leaves alternate; stipules absent. Seedling leaves unifoliate, becoming 3-5-foliate in juvenile stage and then 1-3-foliate in adult. Juvenile leaves sessile or subsessile, 4-15 cm long, narrowly oblong to elliptic, deeply lobed to pinnatifid, lobes acute to obtuse; petioles to 10 cm long. Later juvenile leaves shorter, 5-8 cm long, elliptic to obovate-oblong to lanceolate, acute or obtuse, margins sharply to bluntly serrate, petioles to 6 cm long. Adult leaves usually unifoliate, but trifoliate leaves common, 5-10 x 1.5-4 cm, coriaceous, dark green above, paler below, variously shaped from lanceolate to obovate-oblong, sharply serrate, tip acuminate to acute to obtuse, veins obvious, raised; petiole 3-8 cm long, reddish, non-clasping, terminating in small node in unifoliate leaves. Inflorescence axillary, a compound raceme. Umbellule 5-15 flowered; rays short. Flowers small, green; calyx minutely 5-toothed; ovary 2-loculed, each with 1 ovule; style branches 2, free at tips, strongly curved, connate; stamens 5, projecting, \leq petals. Fruit fleshy, 3-4 mm wide, laterally compressed, green ripening to mottled white cream or purple; style bases retained on apical disc. Seeds 2 per fruit, broadly ovate, straight along ventral edge, surface even, 2.2-3.1 mm long.

Flowering:

(June)-October-March

Fruiting:

(June)-October-March

Threats:

Not Threatened

***Attribution:**

Description adapted from Mitchell (2005), Mitchell et al (1997), Eagle (2000) and Webb and Simpson (2001).

References and further reading:

Moorfield, J. C. (2005). *Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index*. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.

Mitchell, A.D, Frodin, D.G, Heads, M.J. 1997. Reinstatement of *Raukaua*, a genus of the Araliaceae centred on New Zealand. *NZ J. Botany* 305: 309-315;

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=1258



Caption: Kepler Track, Fiordland

Photographer: Jesse Bythell



Caption: *Raukaua simplex*, Auckland Islands

Photographer: John Barkla