



Rhopalostylis sapida

Common Name(s):

Nikau palm

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island, South Island from Marlborough Sounds and Nelson south to Okarito in the west and Banks Peninsula in the east. Also on Chatham and Pitt Islands. However Chatham Islands plants have a distinct juveniel form, larger fruits, and thicker indumentum on the fronds.

Habitat:

Primarily a species of coastal to lowland forest in the warmer parts of New Zealand.

Features:

Trunk up to 15 m, stout, covered in grey-green leaf scars, otherwise green. Crownshaft 0.6(-1) m long, dark green, smooth, bulging. Fronds up to 3 m long; leaflets to 1 m, closely set (sometimes over lapping), ascending. Spathes c.300 x 150 mm., between pink and yellow, caducous. Inflorescence shortly stalked, with many branches, 200-400 mm long. Flowers sessile, unisexual, tightly packed, lilac to pink. Males in pairs, caducous, stamens 6. Females solitary, with minute staminodes, ovary 1-locular, stigmas terminal, recurved, persistent. Fruit c.10 x 7 mm, elliptic-oblong, flesh red.

Flowering:

November - April

Fruiting:

February - November

Threats:

Not Threatened

References and further reading:

Esler, A.E. 1969. Leaf fall and flowering of nikau. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 36: 19-22

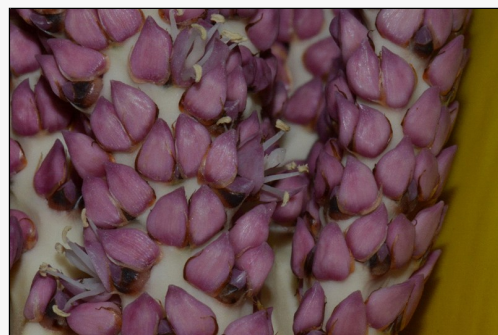
Greenwood, R.M. 1969. Notes on growth of young nikau plants. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 36: 22-23

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1259



Caption: *Rhopalostylis sapida*
Photographer: Pat Enright



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