



## *Ripogonum scandens*

### Common Name(s):

Supplejack, kareao

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands

### Habitat:

Coastal to montane. Usually in forest but occasionally in swamps (where it sprawls through flax and fern), and common in karst country where it often grows in doline, tomo and cave entrances

### Features\*:

Woody, evergreen, twining forest liane. Rhizome horizontal, stout, lignaceous, usually swollen into a woody tuber 30–60 mm diameter at base of erect stem. Stems of two kinds: (a) twining stems growing upward from mature rhizome on forest floor, without green lvs, succulent at tip; these are several metres long, c.15–20 mm diameter, little branched, almost black, finely pubescent; nodes c.100–200 mm apart, thickened; sheathing scale leaves alternate, subopposite or opposite, membranous, 10–30 mm long, charcoal black, narrowly deltoid, finely brown-scabrid, caducous. (b) non-twining stems arising from the long stems in full light; these are to 1 m long, c.5 mm diameter, more branched and widely spreading, light brown, glabrous; internodes shorter, the distal ones bearing green leaves and inflorescences. Leaves mostly opposite, 55–160(-230) × 20–60(-80) mm, green, dark green or yellow-green, ± coriaceous, narrow-ovate to oblong, narrowed rather abruptly to tip, margins entire and ± undulate; petiole c.10–15 mm long, ± channelled. Inflorescence axillary or terminal, simple or compound, 100–150(-280) mm long; bracts usually all small and membranous, rarely foliaceous. Pedicels c.5–9 mm long, without bracteole at base but with one or more adjacent to and resembling perianth-segs. Flowers not crowded. Tepals green often hyaline green, minute, free, spreading. Stamens much > tepals; filaments c.2 mm long; anthers greenish, yellow or cream, linear-oblong, c.3.0–5.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm, dehiscing laterally by long slits. Ovary globose, c.1.5 mm diameter; ovules 2 per locule, attached about mid-level; style 2 mm long, including stigma of 3 verrucose lobes. Fruit globose, bright red, c.10–15 mm diameter, pericarp thin, fleshy, tightly stretched over 1–2(-3) hard, spotted seeds, seed when single almost spherical. Fruit falling, 12–15 months after flowering, by abscission layer just above perianth.

### Flowering:

October - May

### Fruiting:

Throughout the year

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore & Edgar (1970). Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 February 2011.

### References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand Vol. II. Wellington, Government Printer.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1260](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1260)



**Caption:** Rangaika, Chatham Island. Jun 2013.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



**Caption:** Nikau Bush, Chatham Island. Jun 2013.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe