



Schefflera digitata

Common Name(s):

Patete, pate, seven-finger

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. Widespread. North, South and Stewart Islands.

Habitat:

Lowland to montane forest (sealevel to 1000 m a.s.l.).

Features:

Dioecious(?) small tree to 8 m. Trunk irregularly branched; bark greenish, finely ridged and with scattered prominent lenticels. Petioles terete, to 25 cm long, sheathing branchlet, reddish. Petiolules to 2 cm, reddish. Leaves alternate, palmate, with (3)-10 leaflets (us. 7), upper surface evenly green in adult, underside pale, shiny, purplish in juvenile. Terminal leaflet to 20 cm long; lateral leaflets decreasing in size; obovate-cuneate, tip acuminate to obtuse; margins sharply serrate in adult, irregularly lobed to pinnatifid in juvenile. Inflorescence a panicle, axillary (occ. cauline), branches many, spreading, to 35 cm; bracts and bractlets small. Umbels many, up to 10 flowers in each; peduncles subsessile to 10 mm long, pedicels shorter. Flowers greenish cream, c. 7 mm diam. Petals 5(-6), acute. Stamens 5, filaments c. = petals. Style branches 5 (or more), connate below forming an irregular disc. Fruit subglobose, c. 3.5 mm diam., fleshy, dark purple when ripe, containing (5-)7-10(-11) seeds. Seed 2-2.5 mm.

Flowering:

February-March

Fruiting:

February-March

Threats:

Not Threatened

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1281



Caption: Waipoua Forest, Northland
Photographer: John Sawyer



Caption: Schefflera digitata (Patete)
Photographer: Wayne Bennett