



## *Plagianthus regius subsp. chathamicus*

### Common Name(s):

Chatham Island ribbonwood

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Recovering

### Distribution:

Endemic. Chatham Islands (Rekohu (Chatham), Rangiauria (Pitt), Mangere, Little Mangere and Rangatira (South East Island))

### Habitat:

Found on free draining, fertile soils throughout the main islands. Often an important species on soils derived from limestone, and basalt. This tree avoids poorly drained soils and peat.

### Features\*:

Elegant deciduous tree up to 15 m tall. Soft, heart-shaped, serrated, lime green leaves with soft hairs. Flowers greenish, plants dioecious. Fibrous bark that peels in lace-like strips. Flowers from October to February and fruits are produced from December to June.

### Flowering:

October - February

### Fruiting:

December - June

### Threats:

Sheep, cattle and horses browse foliage and seedlings, preventing regeneration. Cattle strip bark, which can kill even large trees. Pigs root up seedlings and saplings and may browse them as well. Possums browse foliage, flowers and seedlings. Land clearance for farming and fire pose additional threats.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 August 2003.

### References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J. 2008: *Plagianthus regius* subsp. *chathamicus* (Malvaceae) - a new combination for the Chatham Islands endemic tree. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46: 381-386.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=141](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=141)



**Caption:** Nikau Bush, Chatham Island. Feb 1995.

**Photographer:** Geoff Walls



**Caption:** Te Awatea Scenic Reserve, Chatham Island. Mar 1999.

**Photographer:** Geoff Walls