



Beilschmiedia tarairi

Common Name(s):

Tarairé

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. Confined to the North Island where it most common north of Auckland and Thames. However it also occurs in scattered pockets in the west south of Port Waikato to the Kawhia Harbour, inland at Pukemokemoke (near Tauhei), and in the east it occurs very locally from the eastern end of Papatea Bay to East Cape.

Habitat:

Common canopy forming tree in lowland and lower montane forests north of Auckland. Often associated with kauri (*Agathis australis*), and pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), and on basalt rocks and soils puriri (*Vitex lucens*).

Features*:

Evergreen tree up to 22 m tall, with very broad canopy crown. Trunk to 1 m diam. Bark smooth, dark brown. Branches stout, spreading. Branchlets, young leaves, petioles and young inflorescences densely clad in reddish brown tomentum. Foliage closely alternate, erecto-patent, simple, leathery. Petioles (8-)10(-12) mm. Leaves (36-)50-72(-85) x (26-)34-48(-56) mm, wide-elliptic to wide-obovate, dark green and glabrous above, bullate, glaucous below, with stout veins covered in reddish brown tomentum, margins entire,, apex rounded, retuse and mucronate. Inflorescence and erect, axillary panicle up to 100 mm long. Flowers sexually perfect, 3-5 mm diam., greenish, often partially clothed in dense reddish-brown tomentum, perianth cleft into 6, stamens 12. Fruit an erect, ellipsoid to ovoid drupe (28-)30(-35) x (14-)16(-18) mm, 1-seeded, pericarp fleshy, dark purple when ripe, covered in waxy glaucous bloom.

Flowering:

(September-) November (-December)

Fruiting:

March - November

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 12 February 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Wright (1984).

References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Wellington, Government Printer.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

Wilcox, M.D. 2001. Establishment of forest monitoring plots in Kirks Bush Papakura with special reference to Tarairé (*Beilschmiedia tarairi*). Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 56: 76-79.

Wright, A. E. 1984: *Beilschmiedia* Nees (Lauraceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 22: 109-125.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1540



Caption: Wenderholm

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Tarairé leaves

Photographer: DoC