



Pseudopanax laetus

Common Name(s):

None known

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic to the northern part of the North Island from Coromandel to inland Gisborne and Taranaki.

Habitat:

Montane forest.

Features*:

Small multi-branched tree to 5 m tall, branchlets brittle. Leaves alternate, leaflets 5-7, palmate, on short petiolules. Petiole to 25 cm long, sheathing branchlet at base, stipules present, purplish red. Petiolules stout, purplish red or leaflets sessile. Leaflets obovate- to cuneate-oblong, thick and coriaceous, green above, paler below, margin coarsely dentate-serrate in distal half, acute or acuminate to subacute; midveins and main lateral veins obvious above and below; terminal lamina 12-25 x 5-10 cm or more, lateral leaflets smaller. Inflorescence a terminal, compound umbel, flowers sometimes subracemose on secondary rays; primary rays (branchlets) 10-15; 15-20 secondary rays. Calyx truncate or obscurely 5-toothed; petals ovate-oblong, acute. Ovary 2-loculed, each containing 1 ovules; style branches 2, spreading. Fruit fleshy, purple, c. 5 mm diam., laterally compressed, style branches retained on an apical disc. 2 Seeds per fruit, broadly-ovate or oblong, wrinkled, 3.4-4.7(-5.1) mm long.

Flowering:

(August)-September to November

Fruiting:

October to February

Threats:

This species is highly palatable to browsing animals. Subsequently it is usually only found in cliff refugia or other similar sites inaccessible to browsing animals. Possums seriously damage plants and have been responsible for its near extinction in some parts.

***Attribution:**

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Eagle (2006), Webb and Simpson (2001).

References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of NZ, Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington, Eagle, A. 2000.

Eagle, A. 2006. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of NZ. Te Papa Press, Wellington

Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=196



Caption: Neopanax laetus in fruit
Photographer: Peter de Lange



Caption: Pseudopanax laetus in fruit
Photographer: Peter de Lange,
January 2006, Te Koru Stream, Te Kauri Scenic Reserve