



Pseudowintera insperata

Common Name(s):

Northland horopito

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island, formerly on all the northern Whangarei Harbour highpoints from Maungatapere to Bream Head, and also at Logues Bush near Wellsford. Now only known from Mt Manaia, Bream Head and Logues Bush.

Habitat:

Coastal, lowland, and alluvial forest, and on exposed ridge tops within low windshorn scrub and forest overlying skeletal soils developed on igneous (andesitic and basaltic) rocks, talus and rock outcrops.

Features*:

Shrub or small tree up to 7 m tall; trunks and branches upright. Branchlets red-brown to maroon-black, glabrous or hairy. Leaf buds and expanding leaves usually hairy on lamina margin, undersides and petiole. Petiole 4-11 x 1.4-2.4 mm, red-brown to maroon. Leaves 35-110 x 18-45 mm, upper surface glossy, dark green to yellow-green, without blemishes or blotches; midvein conspicuous, pale cream to yellow-green, glabrous or sparsely hairy; lamina broadly obovate, oblanceolate, elliptic, broadly elliptic to orbicular, coriaceous; undersides white; midvein red, sparsely hairy or glabrous. Inflorescences axillary, flowers bisexual, solitary or in fascicles of 2-3. Calyx cupule 2.8-2.9 mm diam., margins entire. Corolla comprised of 5-8 free petals, these 3.8-7.0 x 2.3-3.0 mm, broadly elliptic, cream, apex obtuse. Carpels 2-5, free, obovoid, stigma apical. Stamens 13-22, free. Fruit a 1-4-seeded berry, 6.4-9.8 x 4.9-1.8-2.3 mm, black, obovoid to obovoid-oblong.

Flowering:

(October-) December - February

Fruiting:

November - May

Threats:

Herbarium specimens suggest there was once six discrete populations, three of these are now probably extinct. Of the remaining three, one plant survives at Logues Bush, and there are c.50 adult plants at the other two sites. Although recruitment is happening at the two main populations, all three populations occupy an area of < 1 ha. Although active threats are not evident, one population is potentially vulnerable to trampling. The plant at Logues Bush is in ill thrift. For all these reasons this species is regarded as seriously threatened. However, it is cryptic, and easily overlooked and current population estimates are probably inaccurate. For these reasons the threat ranking is qualified as Data Poor (DP)

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 12 December 2006: Description modified from Heenan & de Lange (2006).

References and further reading:

Heenan, P. B. and de Lange, P. J. 2006: *Pseudowintera insperata* (Winteraceae), an overlooked and rare new species from northern New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 44: 89-98.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2329



Caption: Bream Head. Aug 2008.

Photographer: Andrew Townsend



Caption: *Pseudowintera insperata* branching habit

Photographer: Peter de Lange, Ex Cult. Bream Head (grown at University of Auckland), November 2005