



## *Ilex aquifolium*

### **Common Name(s):**

holly

### **Current Threat Status (2009):**

Exotic

### **Habitat:**

Terrestrial.

### **Features:**

An evergreen much branched shrub or small tree to 12 m tall. Leaves (3-10cm long) alternate along the stem, and are dark glossy green above, paler below, with the characteristic undulating, thick, usually deeply serrate margins, with a spine at the point. Flowers occur as clusters, with 4 white petals (3-5mm long). Conspicuous bright red spherical berries develop in the winter.

### **Flowering:**

October, November

### **References and further reading:**

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=4099](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4099)



**Caption:** *Ilex aquifolium* L. (female)

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



**Caption:** Dunedin, in fruit, April

**Photographer:** John Barkla