



## *Pseudopanax kermadecensis*

### Common Name(s):

Kermadec five finger

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. Kermadec Islands, Raoul Island

### Habitat:

Coastal to main summit ridges and crater rim in both dry and wet forest types. However, Kermadec five finger is mostly found in the wet forest type (> 230 m a.s.l.) on Raoul Island, where it forms part of the subcanopy in *Metrosideros*-dominated forest with *Coprosma acutifolia* and *Ascarina lucida* var. *lanceolata*. In some places, such as the exposed ridge lines leading from Moumoukai to Mahoe it may form a major part of the forest canopy.



**Caption:** Raoul Island  
**Photographer:** Bec Stanley

### Features\*:

Small multi-branched tree to 10 m tall, branchlets brittle, trunk to 1 m diam. Leaves alternate, leaflets 5-8 (us. 7), palmate, on short petiolules. Petiole to 15 cm long, sheathing branchlet at base. Petiolule of terminal leaflet obvious, of lateral leaflets shorter or subsessile. Leaflets elliptic to elliptic-ovate, membranous, greenish grey above, paler below, margin bluntly dentate-serrate in distal half or entire, obliquely cuneately narrowing to petiolule, acute; midveins and main lateral veins obvious above and below; terminal lamina 10-15 x 3.5-7 cm, lateral leaflets smaller. Inflorescence a terminal, compound, compact umbel; primary rays (branchlets) c. 8, 4 cm long; secondary rays 8-12, 2-3 cm long. Male flowers to 1 cm diam., pale yellowish green; petals acute; anthers cream, filaments > petal. 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, 3.5-4.2 mm long.

### Flowering:

February - August

### Fruiting:

March - February

### Threats:

Listed only because it is a local, narrow-range endemic confined to a single island within the Kermadec island group. Prior to the successful goat eradication, this species was extremely uncommon and easily qualified as threatened. Since the last goat was shot on the island in 1983 this species has made a spectacular recovery and it is now abundant throughout the island.

### \*Attribution:

Description adapted from Sykes (1993), Allan (1961) and Webb and Simpson (2001).

### References and further reading:

Sykes, W.R. 1993. Reinstatement of *Pseudopanax kermadecensis* (W.R.B.Oliv.) Philipson (Araliaceae)

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of NZ, Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington, Eagle, A. 2000. 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=648](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=648)