



Rhopalostylis baueri

Common Name(s):

Kermadec nikau (N.Z. only)

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from Raoul Island (Kermadec Islands group). Also on Norfolk Island, its type locality.

Habitat:

Abundant in both dry and wet forest types on Raoul Island where it sometimes is the main canopy dominant.

Features*:

Trunk up to 15 m tall, and 0.35 m wide, green to dark green fading to grey with age between rather closely spaced leaf-scars; crown-shaft to 0.80 m long, smooth and green, slightly bulging. Leaf to 3 m long, usually dark green; leaflets closely set, ascending sharply, up to 1 m long and 40 mm wide. Spathes c. 380 × 150 mm, between pink and yellow, smooth, falling as first flowers open. Ultimate branches of inflorescence to 300 mm long, c.15 mm diameter with buds on, at first pale cream-coloured; flower-buds tightly packed. Sepals short, the longest one in male rarely = petals; petals white or pink. Fruit c. 13 × 12 mm, subglobose to globose brick-red. Seed almost spherical, tightly invested in pale fawn endocarp which is marked by several vascular strands curving ± obliquely from hilum and only a few running longitudinally; hilum a broad band from the slightly flattened chalazal area to a pronounced papilla beside the micropyle

Flowering:

December - January

Fruiting:

December - January

Threats:

In the New Zealand part of its range it is not threatened. However, it is only known from Raoul Island, and so qualifies as Range Restricted. On Norfolk, while common it occupies a very reduced range in the centre of that island. There the species is threatened to some extent by rats which eat the fruit and germinating seedlings.

*Attribution:

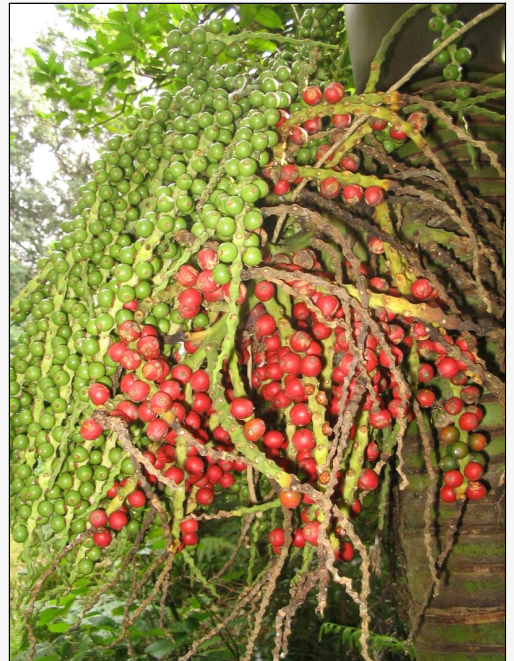
Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=670



Caption: *Rhopalostylis baueri*, Raoul Island

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Raoul Island

Photographer: Bec Stanley