



Pseudowintera axillaris

Common Name(s):

Lowland horopito, lowland pepper tree

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands. Scarce north of Auckland, extending to near Westport on the west of the South Island

Habitat:

Lowland to montane forest. From near sea level.

Features*:

Shrub or small tree up to 7 m tall; trunks and branches upright; bark dark; branchlets dark. Plants glabrous. Petiole slender, 2 cm long, dark reddish brown. Leaves alternate, pungent, 6-10 x 3-6 cm, upper surface glossy, dark green to yellowish-green, without blemishes or blotches; midvein conspicuous, pale; lamina elliptic-oblong to elliptic-obovate to ovate-oblong to lanceolate rhomboid, margin undulate, obtuse to subacute, coriaceous; undersides pale to glaucous but not white; midvein pale. Inflorescences axillary, flowers bisexual, c. 1 cm diam., in fascicles of 1-5-(10), on slender pedicels 5-10 mm long. Calyx cupule margins sub-entire to shallowly lobed. Corolla comprised of 5-(6) free petals, these 5-6 mm long, narrow-oblong to narrow-obovate, greenish yellow, apex obtuse. Carpels 1-6, stigma apical. Stamens 6-20. Fruit a 3-6-seeded fleshyglobose to subglobose berry, 5-6 mm diam., orange to orange-red. Seed 3-angled, obovate to elliptic, 2.5-3.9 mm, surface irregular (showing striping under very high magnification).

Flowering:

September-
December

Fruiting:

October-January (some fruit may
be retained until June)

Threats:

Not Threatened. Unpalatable to browsers

*Attribution:

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Heenan et al. (2006) and Eagle (2006).

References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Government Printer, Wellington

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

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=787



Caption: Western Hutt hills.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Herepai Ridge, Tararua
Forest Park.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe