



Toronia toru

Common Name(s):

toru, toro, toto, mihimihi

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island from Te Pahi south to the mouth of the Waihaha River, on the western side of Lake Taupo. However south of Auckland, toru is mostly found in the east from the Coromandel throughout the Bay of Plenty to about Atiamuri. In the western Waikato it is known locally from the northern end of the Aotea Harbour, near Kawhia (Rakaunui), Te Kauri and Whenuapo in the Taumatotara Range

Habitat:

Coastal to montane mostly on infertile soils, in open shrubland (especially gumland), early successional forest and along ridge lines and around slip scars in kauri (*Agathis australis*) and/or tanekaha (*Phyllocladus trichomanoides*) dominated forest. It is locally abundant on silicic igneous rocks such as rhyolite, ignimbrite and pumice.

Features*:

Small dioecious (or gynodioecious) tree up to 12 m tall; trunk 1 or more arising from base, 0.2-0.3 m dbh; bark firm (not flaking), grey, grey-brown, brown or mottled grey, grey-brown. Branches usually numerous, initially upright, then spreading (sometimes decurved and/or pendulous); branchlets initially semi-terete (\pm compressed on one or more sides), maturing terete, minutely puberulous. Leaves alternate, semi-whorled, glabrous, \pm fleshy and thickly coriaceous, bright green to yellow green (often mottled or spotted with red), glossy, midrib light green or yellow, raised, veins not evident, margins entire, thickened and often distinctly paler than rest of lamina; petioles stout, fleshy, 2-4 mm long, yellow-green or red. Lamina 160-250 mm \times 8-15 mm, narrow linear-lanceolate, abruptly acute or apiculate, base attenuate (gradually narrowing to petiole). Inflorescences axillary, bracteate, 6-12(-20)-flowered racemes up to 60 mm long; rhachis and pedicels pubescent, indumentum ferruginous; bracts basal, minute, \pm caducous. Flowers fragrant, tepals 5-9 mm long, linear-ovate to ovate, abaxially pubescent, indumentum ferruginous, adaxially yellow, margins undulate, \pm pubescent; staminate flowers with 4 stamens, ovary rudimentary in some flowers possibly functional; pistillate flowers with 4 rudimentary stamen, ovary urceolate, subsessile, style short, stigma oblique. Drupe 1(-2)-seeded, 12-18 mm long, ellipsoid, exocarp succulent, flesh red; endocarp 9-14 mm long, elliptic (sometimes broadly elliptic or ovate) or assymmetric, hard, surface reticulate and finely striate, semi-glossy, light brown to brown, reticulate.

Flowering:

September - January

Fruiting:

October - May

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 10 February 2011. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

References and further reading:

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

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Christchurch, Manuka Press.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=796



Caption: In cultivation. Nov 1981.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: In cultivation. Oct 1982.

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