Podocarpus nivalis

Common Name(s):
Mountain totara, snow totara

Current Threat Status (2012):
Not Threatened

Distribution:
Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands from Mt Hikurangi and Mt Pirongia south.

Habitat:
Montane to alpine (virtually confined to subalpine and alpine areas in the North Island). Common in open tussock grassland, subalpine scrub and herbfield, at the base of active scree, amongst boulders and on cliff faces and razorback ridges. Sometimes extending down into beech (Nothofagus forest) and down into valley heads.

Features*:
Prostrate to suberect, spreading woody shrub forming broadly domed patches up to 1.5 × 3.0 m. Trunk usually indistinct (mostly obscured by branches), slender, solitary (sometimes several arising from base). Branches numerous, spreading with slender trunk, branchlets densely leafy. Leaves bronze-green, dark green, sometimes dark wine-red or bronze-purple, closely spaced, spirally arranged, erect or sub-patent, rigid, coriaceous; lamina 5-15 × 2-4 mm, linear-oblanceolate, subulate, obtuse, apex ± apiculate, margins distinctly thickened, midvein prominent. Male strobili axillary, solitary or up to 4 per peduncle; peduncle 3-5 mm long, strobilus 5-15 mm long, apiculus obtuse. Female branchlet axillary, peduncle 3 mm long, receptacle 2.5-10.0 mm long, red, elliptic-oblanceolate to obovate-oblanceolate, slightly compressed, smooth, swollen (fleshy). Seeds solitary or paired, 3.5-7.0 mm long, green when fresh, ovoid or ellipsoid-ovoid, weakly asymmetric, obtusely pointed.

Flowering:
September - November

Fruiting:
December - June

Threats:
Not Threatened

*Attribution:

References and further reading:

For more information, visit: