

# Alseuosmia pusilla

## FAMILY

Alseuosmiaceae

## AUTHORITY

Alseuosmia pusilla Colenso

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

ALSPUS

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small shrub, inconspicuous unless in flower or fruit. Leaves glossy, often with a red margin and sometimes with a red-flecked surface. Flowers white, tubular, clustered, sweet smelling. Fruit red, fleshy, conspicuous.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island from Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south, mainly montane. South Island, in the west only from North-West Nelson to near Okarito

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

## LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy berries dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings though these strike with varying degrees of success. Seed is often hard to germinate. Prefers a semi-shaded site in a cool place with permanently damp soil. Slow growing and prone to sudden collapse during dry spells. However, next to *A. macrophylla* this is the easiest species to cultivate



Mangaone Track, Waikanae. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/03/1986, Licence: CC BY.



Atiwhakatu Valley, Tararua Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 02/02/2008, Licence: CC BY.

## ETYMOLOGY

**alseuosmia**: Perfume grove

**pusilla**: Small

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/alseuosmia-pusilla/>