

Pterophylla racemosa

COMMON NAME

kāmahi, tawheo, tawhero, tawherowhero

SYNONYMS

Weinmannia racemosa L.f.

FAMILY

Cunoniaceae

AUTHORITY

Pterophylla racemosa (L.f.) Pillon et H.C.Hopkins

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

WEIRAC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 30

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tree to small shrub, young stems bearing deciduous stipules, leaves variable but as adults most simple, with deeply toothed margins, flowers white or pink, clustered in spike-like racemes

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura. The exact northern limits of *Pterophylla racemosa* are uncertain but probably lie somewhere along the Manukau Harbour and Hunua Ranges across the Kaimai Range. North of here the distinction between *P. racemosa* and *P. sylvicola* is often confused. This needs further study.

HABITAT

Coastal to subalpine. A widespread and common tree of disturbed habitats in coastal and lowland to montane forest, often becoming locally dominant in higher elevation montane forest in the higher ranges of the North Island and western South Island.



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Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 14/11/2003, Licence: CC BY.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree up to 28 m tall often forming a narrowly domed canopy (but this will vary according to local conditions). **Trunk** up to 1.2 m diameter. **Branches** numerous, erect to spreading, **Foliage** heterophyllous, with distinct seedling, juvenile and adult leaves (reversion shoots common). **Stipules** caducous, 3–6 mm long, lanceolate, finely pubescent, yellow-green to pinkish. **Seedling and juvenile leaves** membranous to subcoriaceous, 10–60 × 10–30 mm; lamina simple to 3-lobed or 3-foliolate, ovate-elliptic to elliptic or lanceolate, apices subacute to acute, margins serrate to incised-serrate; adult leaves coriaceous, on petioles up to 20 mm long, lamina 30–100 × 20–40 mm lamina simple, elliptic, ovate-elliptic to broad-ovate, apices obtuse to subacute, margins rather coarsely, bluntly serrate. **Inflorescences** racemose; racemes 60–140 mm long, rachises and pedicels finely, pilose-pubescent; pedicels 2–4 mm long, clustered, ascending to spreading. **Sepals** 1.0–1.5 mm. long, ovate, persistent. **Petals** 4–(5), 2–3 mm long, ovate-oblong, white, cream or pale pink. **Stamens** 8–10, exserted; filaments up to 10 mm long, white or pinkish white; anthers 0.2–0.3 mm diameter, cream. **Nectaries** 8, red; ovary, narrowly ovoid 0.8 mm diameter, covered in appressed hairs, carpels 2, free almost to base. **Pistils**: styles 3–4 mm long, pale pink, persistent; stigma 0.2–0.4 mm, pink or pale pink, punctate. **Fruit** a pubescent, broadly cylindrical capsule 4.0–5.8 × 2.7–3.1 mm, initially greyish drying honey-brown or dark brown. **Seeds** numerous, 1.0–1.5 mm long, narrowly elliptic to elliptic-oblong, orange-brown, apices bearing dense hair tufts, otherwise glabrous.

FLOWERING

July–January

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

October–May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. Can also be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings. This is an attractive tree tolerant of a wide range of conditions and soil types though it does best in high light, and in free-draining soil. The flowers are very attractive to a range of insects and birds.

ETYMOLOGY

racemosa: Raceme bearing

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (13 October 2012). Description prepared by P.J. de Lange.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

McKenzie R. 1960. The distributional overlap of *Weinmannia sylvicola* and *Weinmannia racemosa*. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 17: 7–8.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pterophylla-racemosa/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pterophylla-racemosa/>