

# Alseuosmia banksii var. linariifolia

## SYNONYMS

*Alseuosmia linariifolia*

## FAMILY

Alseuosmiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Alseuosmia banksii* var. *linariifolia* (A.Cunn.) R.O.Gardner

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

ALSBVL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Data Deficient

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Shrub of Northland forests. Leaves vary, much longer than wide, green, margin smooth. Flower white, tubular, drooping, inconspicuous. Fruit fleshy, red.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island only, local from Kaitaia to about Kaiwaka

## HABITAT

Coastal to lowland. Often in alluvial forest, and/or mixed hardwood forest. Often associated with kauri (*Agathis australis* (D.Don) Lindl.).

## FEATURES

Bushy slender shrub up to c.1 m tall; branchlets slender, spreading, red-brown, pubescent. Leaves on petioles up to 10 mm long, slender, flattened, pubescent. Lamina submembranous, narrow-linear to linear, 5.0-30.0 × 2.5-7.0 mm; yellow-green to dark green, often more or less red-flushed, rarely flecked, apex acute, base attenuate to cuneately narrowed. Margins entire to subentire – and then with only a few faint teeth toward apex. Flowers 10-15 mm long, mostly solitary, rarely in fascicles of 2-3 together. Calyx pubescent; lobes 4 deeply cut to ½-way, bluntly triangular, pubescent. Corolla tube 8-10 mm long; very slightly flaring, greenish yellow or yellow with red-tinges or completely pink; lobes 3.0-3.5 mm, fimbriate, flaring widely at anthesis. Berry 5-9 × 4-7 mm subglobose to subturbinate, fleshy, red, puberulent.



Te Arai Scenic Reserve, Northland.  
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Te Arai Scenic Reserve, Northland.  
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

## SIMILAR TAXA

Not very well known. The type corresponds to an erect, heavily branched shrub with very small, linear leaves (up to 30 x 2.5-3.0 mm), and small creamy yellow flowers (up to 15 mm long). In Northland there is a distinctive *Alseuosmia*, which is usually unbranched, and has long, narrow linear leaves (up to 100 x 5-8 mm). The flowers are much longer (up to 15 mm long), and varying in colour from pink through yellow to crimson. This form many people have come to regard as *A. banksii* var. *linariifolia*. This is not so, it does not match the type with respect to its growth habit, leaf size or flowers. Preliminary Genomic In situ Hybridisations (P. J. de Lange & P. M. Datson unpubl. data) suggest that it warrants recognition as a separate species. Gardner (1977) treated it as a form of *A. quercifolia* A.Cunn., a species he regarded as a hybrid complex (*A. quercifolia* A.Cunn.).

## FLOWERING

September - December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

## FRUITING

November - February

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings though these strike with varying degrees of success. Seed is often hard to germinate. Does best in semi-shade in a sheltered site. Difficult to grow.

## THREATS

Uncertain. This plant is not very well known, and due to confusion over its exact identity, most records actually refer to an apparently unnamed species instead. Further survey to ascertain its exact status is urgently needed as current indications are that this plant is extremely uncommon with most records coming from roadside scrub and unprotected forest remnants.

## ETYMOLOGY

**alseuosmia:** Perfume grove

**banksii:** Named after Sir Joseph Banks, 1st Baronet, GCB, PRS (24 February 1743 - 19 June 1820) was an English naturalist, botanist and patron of the natural sciences.

**linariifolia:** Linear leaf

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

Description based on the type and other herbarium specimens as well as fresh specimens.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/alseuosmia-banksii-var-linariifolia/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/alseuosmia-banksii-var-linariifolia/>