

Alseuosmia banksii var. *linariifolia*

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Data Deficient

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

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

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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.

SIMILAR TAXA

Not very well known. The type corresponds to an erect, heavily branched shrub with very small, linear leaves (up to 30 × 2.5–3.0 mm), and small creamy yellow flowers (up to 15 mm long). In Northland there is a distinctive *Alseuosmia* that is usually unbranched and has long, narrow linear leaves (up to 100 × 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.).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (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.).



Te Arai Scenic Reserve, Northland.
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:
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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.

GENUS

Alseuosmia

FAMILY

Alseuosmiaceae

AUTHORITY

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

SYNONYMS

Alseuosmia linariifolia

TAXONOMIC NOTES

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

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

September–December

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.

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

NVS CODE

ALSBVL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 18$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2009 | Data Deficient

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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/>

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27 May 2026