

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

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

ETYMOLOGY

alseuosmia: Perfume grove

pusilla: Small



Mangaone Track, Waikanae. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Atiwhakatu Valley, Tararua Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

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/>