

Brachyglottis arborescens

COMMON NAMES

Three Kings rangiora

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Canopy tree of the Three Kings Islands. Bark stringy. Leaves curled, large, dark glossy green and white underneath. Flowers in clusters of small white flowers. Seeds small, with a tuft of white hairs.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow, Green

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub, small tree up to 8 m high. **Trunk** up to 30 cm or more diameter at base. **Bark** thick, in corky ridges. **Leaves** very glossy, bullate, obovate in outline, very shallowly lobed to sinuate. **Inflorescence** capitula small, panicle sparingly branched. **Flowers** lack ray florets, approximately 5 mm diameter, **disc florets** perfect, tubular-campanulate, dark greenish-yellow to sulphur yellow. **Achene** pappus-hairs longer than 3 mm, distinctly barbellate.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. **Three Kings Islands**, present on all the main islands and also Hinemoa Rock within the Princes chain of islets and rock stacks.

HABITAT

Meryta sinclairii forest and in coastal scrub. Sometimes found as an understorey shrub within the dense kanuka (Kunzea aff. ericoides) forest which dominates Great (Manawa Tawhi) Island.

GENUS

Brachyglottis

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyglottis arborescens W.R.B.Oliv.

SYNONYMS

Brachyglottis repanda var. arborescens (W.R.B.Oliv.) Allan

TAXONOMIC NOTES

The large-leaved forms of North Auckland, Mayor and other coastal islands need further study.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



West Island, December 1996. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Near Trig, Great Island. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November-February

FRUITING

January-March

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Pappate achenes are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and cuttings. However, difficult to maintain as it is extremely susceptible to phytophthora and verticillium wilt.

CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

ETYMOLOGY

brachyglottis: Name comes from the Greek words brachus meaning “short” and glottis meaning “the vocal apparatus of the larynx”

arborescens: Becoming a tree

NVS CODE

BRAARB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p; pp. 757-758.

Dawson J, Lucas R, Connor J, & Brownsey PJ. 2011. *New Zealand's Native Trees*. Nelson: Craig Potton. pg. 160.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961) and Dawson *et al.* (2011).

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyglottis-arborescens/>

PDF DATE

07 June 2026