

Fuscospora fusca

COMMON NAMES

red beech

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Tall forest tree bearing masses of small sharply-toothed leaves that also have a small hairy pit at the junction of the veins. Trunk flaky. Leaves 2–4 cm long. Flowers and fruit small and usually inconspicuous but change colour of tree when in flower.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree up to 30 metres tall; trunk up to 2 metres or more in diameter, often strongly buttressed. **Leaves** rather thin, coriaceous, 20–40 × 15–25 mm., on petioles up to 4 mm. long; lamina glabrous except on veins below, broad-ovate to ovate-oblong, coarsely, rather deeply sharply serrate with 6–8 pairs of teeth; venation distinct; fringed domatia 1–2 in basal vein axils. **Staminate inflorescences** 1–8 per branchlet; peduncles glabrous, up to 4 mm long, bearing 1–3 or rarely 5 subsessile flowers. Perianth 5 mm long, campanulate; shallowly obtusely 5 lobed, sparsely to rather densely pubescent. Stamens 8–11; anthers 3 mm long, red, yellow, or straw coloured. **Pistillate inflorescences** 1–5 per branchlet, sessile, ovoid to globose, 3 mm. long, glabrate, usually 3-flowered. Lateral flowers trimerous, terminal dimerous; stigmas ligulate, distinctly bilobed. Cupule pubescent, 4-partite; segments attenuate, up to 10 mm. long; glands between segments and bracts. **Nuts** 7 mm long, triquetrous or flat; wings broad at base, attenuate.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from latitude 37° southwards, except Mount Taranaki), South Island.

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest.

GENUS

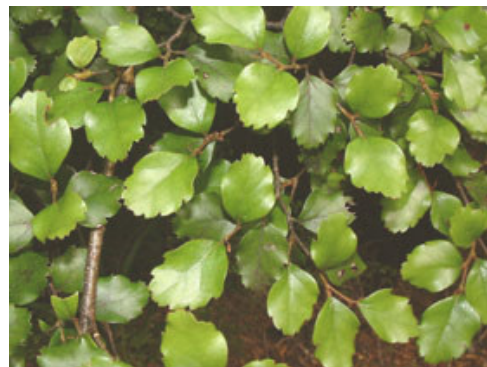
Fuscospora

FAMILY

Nothofagaceae

AUTHORITY

Fuscospora fusca (Hook.f.) Heenan et Smissen



Cobb Valley. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kaitoke Ridge Track, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/05/2007, Licence: CC BY.

SYNONYMS

Fagus fusca Hook. f., *Nothofagus fusca* (Hook.f.) Oerst.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

September–December

FRUITING

November–March

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

ETYMOLOGY

fusca: Brown tinged with grey or black

NVS CODE

FUSFUS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 26

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened [Help](#)

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the “[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)” Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

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.

Anonymous. 1957. Construction of key for the genus *Nothofagus*. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 14: 2–3.

Greenwood RM. 1951. The Red Beech. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 25: 6–9.

Heenan PB, Smissen RD. 2013. Revised circumscription of *Nothofagus* and recognition of the segregate genera *Fuscospora*, *Lophozonia*, and *Trisyngyne* (Nothofagaceae). *Phytotaxa* 146: 1–31.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.146.1.1>.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/fuscospora-fusca/>

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