Laurelia novae-zelandiae

COMMON NAMES
pukatea

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 tree with a fluted base bearing pairs of oval glossy dark green toothed leaves inhabiting wetter sites throughout the North Island and Nelson. Twigs square, reddish. Leaves 4-8mm long, margin evenly toothed, in several pairs along stem. Flower small greenish. Fruit dry and covered in long hairs.

FLOWER COLOURS
Green, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Tree up to 35 metres tall; trunk up to 2 metres diameter, with plank-buttresses at base; bark pale; ultimate branchlets tetragonous, sparsely hairy. Leaves coriaceous on petioles up to 1 cm. long; lamina dark green and glossy above, paler below, 4-8 × 2.5-5 cm., elliptic to elliptic-obovate, coarsely bluntly serrate. Racemes axillary, up to 3 cm. long, pedicels softly hairy. Flowers more or less 6 mm. across; Staminate flowers 5-6-partite to near base, stamens more or less 12; Pistillate flowers urceolate, contracted above, segments spreading, carpels numerous. Achenes more or less 5 mm. long, fusiform; styles up to 2 cm. long, densely clad in long silky hairs.

DISTRIBUTION
North and South Islands – Northland to Marlborough and Westland

HABITAT
Lowland semi-swamp forest and gully forest

GENUS
Laurelia

FAMILY
Atherospermataceae

AUTHORITY
Laurelia novae-zelandiae A.Cunn.

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

Otari Wilton's Bush, Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 07/09/2004, Licence: CC BY.

Buttress roots. Remutaka Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 16/05/2002, Licence: CC BY.

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
(September) October - December

FRUITING
October – January

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Pappate achenes are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FAC: Facultative
Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY
laurelia: Laurel
novae-zelandiae: Of New Zealand

NVS CODE
LAUNOV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 44

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Allan, H. H. 1961 Flora of New Zealand. Volume I. Wellington, N. Z. pg. 139.
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 11: 285-309.

ATTRIBUTION
Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).
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MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/laurelia-novae-zelandiae/

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