

Laurelia novae-zelandiae

COMMON NAME

pukatea

FAMILY

Atherospermataceae

AUTHORITY

Laurelia novae-zelandiae A.Cunn.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

LAUNOV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF 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.

DISTRIBUTION

North and South Islands – Northland to Marlborough and Westland

HABITAT

Lowland semi-swamp forest and gully forest

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

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.



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.

FLOWERING

(September) October - December

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

FRUITING

October – January

LIFE CYCLE

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

ETYMOLOGY

laurelia: Laurel

novae-zelandiae: Of New Zealand

ATTRIBUTION

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

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.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/laurelia-novae-zelandiae/>