

# 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).

## FEATURES

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 Rolfe



Buttress roots. Remutaka Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

## 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/>