

Lophozonia menziesii

COMMON NAMES

silver 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

Very common forest canopy tree with silvery bark and bearing rough-edged small leathery leaves arranged along the twig. Leaves almost as wide as long, 6–15 mm long, with uneven blunt teeth on margin and with small hairy pits at the junction of the veins. Flowers and fruits inconspicuous, but colour tree.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree up to 30 metres tall; trunk up to 2 metres diameter, often buttressed; branchlet-pubescent fulvous. **Leaves** thick, coriaceous, rigid; 6–15 × 5–15 mm, on petioles 2–3 mm long; lamina glabrous except on veins below, broad-to deltoid-ovate to suborbicular, doubly crenate, cuneate at base; venation rather obscure; fringed domatia 1–2 in basal vein-axils. **Staminate inflorescences** 1–4 per branchlet; peduncles 2–3 mm long, sparsely pubescent, with 1 terminal flower. Perianth 5–6 mm diameter, of 2 unequal lobes, each again 2–3-partite. Stamens 30–36; anthers 2–3 mm long, red above, greenish below, or straw coloured. **Pistillate inflorescences** 1–4 per branchlet, (2)–3-flowered, on short densely pubescent peduncles. Lateral flowers trimerous, terminal dimerous or aborted; stigmas ligulate. Cupule 6–7 mm. long, 4-segmented, with 4–5 rows of gland-tipped processes, subtended by 2 foliaceous bracts. **Nuts** puberulous, 5 mm long; lateral triquetrous, 3-winged; terminal flat, 2-winged; wings produced above, gland-tipped.

DISTRIBUTION

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

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest or as shrub in subalpine scrub.

GENUS

Lophozonia

FAMILY

Nothofagaceae

AUTHORITY

Lophozonia menziesii (Hook.f.) Heenan et Smissen



Dunedin. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Eglinton, Fiordland National Park. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

SYNONYMS

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

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November–January

FRUITING

January–March

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

NVS CODE

LOPMEN

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, Lycopsidea, 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.

Heenan PB, Smitsen 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).

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/lophozonia-menziesii/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026