

# Pectinopitys ferruginea

## COMMON NAME

Miro, brown pine

## SYNONYMS

*Podocarpus ferruginea* D.Don, *Stachypitys ferruginea* (D.Don) Bobrov et Melikyan nom. illegit., *Stachycarpus ferruginea* (D.Don) Tieghem, *Prumnopitys ferruginea* (D.Don) Laubenf.

## FAMILY

Podocarpaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pectinopitys ferruginea* (G.Benn. ex D.Don in Lamb.) C.N.Page

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

## NVS CODE

PRUFER

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 36$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

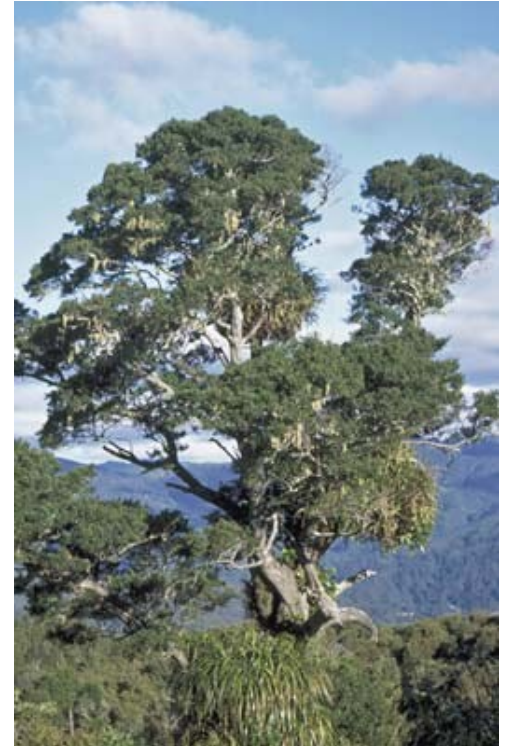
Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands.

## HABITAT

Common tree of lowland to montane forest.

## FEATURES

Stout tree up to 25 m tall. Trunk 1-1.5 m diam., in adults clear of branches for 2/3 of length. Bark thick, grey. Falling in thick, sinuous flakes. Leaves feathery, dark green, green to bronze-green, distichous, erect, narrow-linear, acute, falcate to subfalcate, acute to subacute, mid vein distinct, margins recurved, juveniles up to 30 mm long, those of adults 15-25 x 2-3 mm. Male cones (strobili) solitary, axillary, 5-15 mm long. Ovules solitary (rarely paired), on short branchlets 10 or less mm. long. Fruit a broadly oblong to sub-spherical red, pink-red fleshy drupe up to 20 mm long - fleshy, oily, smelling and tasting strongly of terpenes. Stone elliptic to broadly elliptic 11-17 mm long, dark brown to black-brown.



A miro tree. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Miro. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

## SIMILAR TAXA

The bright green to bronze-green, feathery foliage, and pink-red, to red plum-like drupes are quite unlike any other New Zealand conifer. However young miro plants might be confused with yew (*Taxus baccatus*), but can be distinguished by their lack of petioles.

## FLOWERING

June - August - October

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## FRUITING

Fruits take 12-18 months to mature. Ripe fruits are mainly found from November - April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. Seed may take up to 2 years to germinate. Can be grown from hard-wood cuttings but rather slow to strike.

## THREATS

Not Threatened, although as a forest-type it has been greatly reduced through widespread logging. Very few intact examples of miro-dominated forest remain in the country.

## ETYMOLOGY

**ferruginea**: Rust coloured

## CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

The large, oily, red fruits are an important part of the diet of the New Zealand Wood Pigeon/Kereru/Kukupa (*Hemiphaga novaezealandiae*).

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

*Stachypitys* proposed by Bobrov & Melikyan (2000) is regarded as illegitimate because it is a paronym of *Stachyopitys* a fossil conifer genus. More recently Page (2019) created the genus *Pectinopitys* to accommodate New Zealand miro, allied species in Eastern Australia (one), New Caledonia (one), and three South American species. It has long been recognised that miro was an 'ill fit' in *Prumnopitys*, which was why Bobrov & Melikyan (2000) made an attempt to move it out of that genus, so this more recent segregation should come as no surprise.

## ATTRIBUTION

Prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN, 3 February 2006. Description based on Allan (1961)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington

Bobrov, A.V.F.Ch.; Melikyan, A.P. 2000: Morphology of female reproductive structures and an attempt of the construction of phylogenetic system of orders Podocarpaceae, Cephalotaxales and Taxales. *Botanicheskii Zhurnal (Moscow & Leningrad)* 85(7):50–68.

Page, C.N. 2019: New and maintained genera in the taxonomic alliance of *Prumnopitys* s.l (Podocarpaceae), and circumscription of a new genus: *Pectinopitys*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 57(1): 137-153.

## CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pectinopitys-ferruginea/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pectinopitys-ferruginea/>