

# Pseudopanax chathamicus

## COMMON NAME

hoho, Chatham Island lancewood

## SYNONYMS

*Pseudopanax chathamicum* (nom. illegit.)

## FAMILY

Araliaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pseudopanax chathamicus* Kirk

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

PSECHA

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE

2004 | Range Restricted

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small tree with long narrow thick and fleshy leaves found only on the Chatham Islands

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Chatham Islands only.

## HABITAT

A tree species found in most Chatham Island forests, more common in coastal forest where the soil is moist for much of the year. Hoho often occurs in gullies or on gentle slopes, with karamu and matipo.



Mature trees, Chatham (Rekohu) Island, Tuku Nature Reserve. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



*Pseudopanax chathamicus* flowers. Photographer: Peter de Lange

## FEATURES

Small tree to 7(-12) m tall, lower trunk us. unbranched, branchlets fleshy. Leaves alternate, leaflets absent, ascending-spreading (not deflexed in young plants). Petioles c. 15-20 cm long, sheathing branchlet at base. Leaves of juvenile 5-15 cm long, lanceolate to oblong, cuneately narrowed to short petiole, acute to subacute, coarsely serrate in upper part only; leaves of young adult thicker, subcoriaceous, 15-30 x 3-3.5 cm, variable in shape on same plant, oblong to elliptic- to obovate-oblong, distinctly apiculate, margins serrate to sinuate to nearly entire; adult leaves similar but shorter (10-15 cm long), thicker, margins smoother, and on petiole 10-20 mm long, midrib prominent, veins evident. Inflorescence an umbel, terminal, compound; staminate (male) with 5-10 primary rays, c. 5 cm long, flowers racemously arranged; pistillate (female) with shorter primary rays, umbellules 2-5 (or more) flowered. Ovary 5-loculed, 5-ovuled, style branches connate. Fruit fleshy, broad-oblong, 6-5 mm diam., rounded style branches retained on an apical disc, very dark purple. Seeds 5 per fruit (often only 1 or 2 viable), grooved on lateral face, 4-6(-7) mm long.

## FLOWERING

October - May

## FRUITING

November - September

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Can be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings, though these can be slow to strike. An excellent small tree, which prefers full sun, and should be planted in a deep, damp, fertile soil

## ETYMOLOGY

**pseudopanax:** False cure

**chathamicus:** From the Chathams

## NOTES ON TAXONOMY

The name *Pseudopanax chathamicum* (nom. illegit.) provided in the Flora NZ Vol. 1 (Allan 1961) has the incorrect gender suffix.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange 28 May 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb & Simpson (2001).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of NZ, Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pseudopanax chathamicus* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudopanax-chathamicus/>