

Pseudopanax colensoi var. ternatus

SYNONYMS

Neopanax colensoi (Hook.f.) Allan, *Nothopanax colensoi* (Hook.f.) Seem.

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudopanax colensoi var. *ternatus* Wardle

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PSECVT

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small much-branched tree with 3 fleshy leaflets arranged fanwise on a long petiole

DISTRIBUTION

South Island. Apparently absent from Banks Peninsula

HABITAT

50m to 1000 m a.s.l. Cool moist forest and shrubland in damper regions

FEATURES

Us. dioecious. Small multi-branched tree to 8 m tall, branchlets fleshy brittle. Leaves alternate, leaflets 3, palmate, sessile or subsessile on very short petiolules. Petioles 5-20 cm long, sheathing branchlet at base and with small erect stipule. Petiolules absent or very short, of terminal leaflet to 0-3 mm long, shorter on lateral leaflets, pale green. Leaflets narrow-ovate to broadly elliptic-oblong, cuneately narrowed at base, coriaceous, coarsely serrate-dentate in upper 1/2 - 2/3, acute to obtuse; midrib obvious above and below, lateral veins obscure; darker shiny green above; terminal lamina 5-17 x 2-11 cm, lateral leaflets decreasing in size. Inflorescence a terminal umbel; c. 8 primary rays (branchlets); 10-12 secondary rays; umbellules with 5-10 flowers in each. Calyx truncate or obscurely 5-toothed; flowers c. 5 mm diam.; petals 5, cream or greenish, ovate to triangular, acute; ovary 2-loculed, each containing 1 ovules; style branches 2. Fruit fleshy, 4-6 mm diam., style branches retained on an apical disc, dark purple when ripe. Seeds 2 per fruit, obviously wrinkled, 3.5-4.5 mm long.



Catlins, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Catlins, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

SIMILAR TAXA

Often confused with *Pseudopanax colensoi* var. *colensoi*, which usually has 5 leaflets. *Pseudopanax discolor* also has three leaflets but these are much smaller and thinner. The other varieties of *Pseudopanax colensoi* are distinguished their number of leaflets and distribution. The presence of a range of forms of probable hybrid arrangement at some sites can make identification difficult at times.

FLOWERING

October-March

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Green

FRUITING

October-March

THREATS

Not Threatened, but leaflets often eaten by possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*)

ETYMOLOGY

pseudopanax: False cure

colensoi: Named after William Colenso (7 November 1811 - 10 February 1899) who was a Cornish Christian missionary to New Zealand, and also a printer, botanist, explorer and politician.

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

For comments on the generic position of this taxon see under *Pseudopanax colensoi* (see also: Frodin, D.G.; Govaerts, R. 2003: World Checklist and Bibliography of Araliaceae, The Cromwell Press, European Union.)

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Wardle (1968), Allan (1961) and Webb and Simpson (2001).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Wardle, P. 1968. The taxonomy and distribution of the stipulate species of *Pseudopanax* in New Zealand. *NZ J. Botany* 6: 226-236

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.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudopanax-colensoi-var-ternatus/>