

Pseudopanax crassifolius

COMMON NAME

horoeka, lancewood

SYNONYMS

Aralia crassifolia Sol. ex A.Cunn., *Panax crassifolium* (Sol.) Decne et Planchon, *Panax longissimum* Hook.f., *Panax coriaceum* Regel, *Hedera crassifolia* Gray

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudopanax crassifolius (Sol. ex A.Cunn.) C.Koch

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PSECRA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small tree with distinctive draped thick long narrow toothed juvenile leaves

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands. Widespread and common

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest. Sealevel to c. 750 m a.s.l.



Remutaka Rail Trail. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Long Bay, Coromandel. February.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

FEATURES

Bushy topped tree to 15 m tall, branchlets fleshy, trunk us. unbranched in lower part, to 50 cm diam., distinctly ridged when young, bark dark becoming paler with age, wood tough. Leaves alternate; leaflets 1-3 in seedling, palmate, sessile or subsessile on very short petiolule, submembranous coarsely toothed, absent from juvenile and adult. Juvenile leaves dark green, narrow-linear, deflexed, to 1 m long, coriaceous, midrib pale cream-yellow, raised, margins distantly sharply toothed, distal margin of tooth perpendicular to midvein, not swollen. Adult leaves shorter, 10-20 x 2-3 cm, dark green, very occ. trifoliate (probably due to hybridisation with oither species), narrow elliptic-cuneate to lanceolate or linear-obovate, acute or obtuse, margins entire to sunuate or coarsely serrate, subsessile or on petioles to 10 mm long, petiole base expanded around stem. Inflorescence a terminal umbel, irregularly compound; primary rays (branchlets) 5-10, c. 6 cm long; umbellules sometimes racemosely arranged. Ovary 5-loculed, each containing 1 ovule; style branches 5, connate, tips sometimes free. Fruit fleshy, subglobose, 4-5 mm diam., style branches retained on an apical disc, dark purple when ripe. Seeds 4-5 per fruit, easily separated, broadly ovate, grooved, 2.2-3.5(-5.5) mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Usually only confused with the rarer *Pseudopanax ferox* which has rounded discoloured teeth on the juvenile leaves, and darker brown adult leaves. *Pseudopanax ferox* also has a larger fruit.

FLOWERING

January-April

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

January-April

ETYMOLOGY

pseudopanax: False cure

crassifolius: From the Latin crassus' thick and folius 'leaf'

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb and 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.

MORE INFORMATION

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