

# Pseudopanax crassifolius

## COMMON NAMES

horoeka, lancewood

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small tree with distinctive draped thick long narrow toothed juvenile leaves

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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. trifoliolate (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.

## DISTRIBUTION

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

## HABITAT

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

## GENUS

*Pseudopanax*



Makarora Valley. March. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Beaumont Station, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 06/04/2012, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## FAMILY

Araliaceae

## AUTHORITY

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

## SYNONYMS

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

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

January-April

## FRUITING

January-April

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

## ETYMOLOGY

**pseudopanax**: False cure

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

## NVS CODE

PSECRA

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 48$

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

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, 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.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

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

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### **MORE INFORMATION**

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

### **PDF DATE**

25 May 2026