

Pseudowintera axillaris

COMMON NAME

Lowland horopito, lowland pepper tree

SYNONYMS

Drimys axillaris J.R.Forst. et G.Forst., *Drimys axillaris* J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.
var. *axillaris*, *Wintera axillaris* G.Forst., *Wintera terminalis* Tiegh.

FAMILY

Winteraceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudowintera axillaris (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) Dandy

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PSEAXI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 86

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Pungent leaved small shrub with wavy shiny green leaves that are pale underneath

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. Scarce north of Auckland, extending to near Westport on the west of the South Island

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest. From near sea level.



Boulder Hill, Lower Hutt. May 2005.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Coromandel, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

FEATURES

Shrub or small tree up to 7 m tall; trunks and branches upright; bark dark; branchlets dark. Plants glabrous. Petiole slender, 2 cm long, dark reddish brown. Leaves alternate, pungent, 6-10 x 3-6 cm, upper surface glossy, dark green to yellowish-green, without blemishes or blotches; midvein conspicuous, pale; lamina elliptic-oblong to elliptic-obovate to ovate-oblong to lanceolate rhomboid, margin undulate, obtuse to subacute, coriaceous; undersides pale to glaucous but not white; midvein pale. Inflorescences axillary, flowers bisexual, c. 1 cm diam., in fascicles of 1-5- (10), on slender pedicels 5-10 mm long. Calyx cupule margins sub-entire to shallowly lobed. Corolla comprised of 5- (6) free petals, these 5-6 mm long, narrow-oblong to narrow-obovate, greenish yellow, apex obtuse. Carpels 1-6, stigma apical. Stamens 6-20. Fruit a 3-6-seeded fleshyglobose to subglobose berry, 5-6 mm diam., orange to orange-red. Seed 3-angled, obovate to elliptic, 2.5-3.9 mm, surface irregular (showing striping under very high magnification).

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to other *Pseudowintera* species from which it can be distinguished by leaf size and the absence of blotching and colour and non-white undersurface of the leaf

FLOWERING

September-December

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

October-January (some fruit may be retained until June)

THREATS

Not Threatened. Unpalatable to browsers

ETYMOLOGY

pseudowintera: False *Wintera* (a related genus)

axillaris: Axilled

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

The Winteraceae is one of the most primitive families of the flowering plants and flower parts are relatively un-specialised.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Heenan et al. (2006) and Eagle (2006).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Heenan, P.B, de Lange, P.J. 2006. *Pseudowintera insperata* (Winteraceae), an overlooked and rare new species from northern New Zealand. NZ J. Botany 44: 89-98

Eagle, A. 2000. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of NZ. Te Papa Press, 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/pseudowintera-axillaris/>