# **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

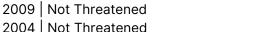
# **CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS**

2017 | Not Threatened

# **PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES**

2012 | 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. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 28/05/2005, Licence: CC



Coromandel, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

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, grenish 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 irrregular (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 unspecialised.

# **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/