

Pseudowintera colorata

COMMON NAME

red horopito, mountain horopito, alpine peppertree

SYNONYMS

Drimys colorata Raoul, *Drimys axillaris* var. *colorata* (Raoul) Kirk, *Wintera colorata* Tiegh.

FAMILY

Winteraceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudowintera colorata (Raoul) Dandy

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PSECOL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 86

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Dark shrub with pepper-tasting leaves blotched red above and coloured white underneath

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands

HABITAT

Coastal, lowland, or montane forest margins and shrubland

FEATURES

Shrub to 3.5 m tall; trunks and branches upright; bark dark; branchlets dark. Plants glabrous. Petiole slender, 5-10 mm long, dark reddish brown. Leaves alternate, pungent and pepper-tasting; midvein inconspicuous above, raised below; lamina 2-6(-8) x 1-3 cm, elliptic, margin undulate, tip obtuse to subacute, coriaceous, upper surface matt green to yellowish-green, blotched with red in exposed situations, undersides glaucous to white and often pink-flushed. Inflorescences axillary, flowers bisexual, c. 1 cm diam., in fascicles of 1-3, on slender pedicels 5-10 mm long, bracts ciliate. Calyx cupule margins subentire to shallowly lobed. Corolla comprised of 5-(6) free petals, these 4-5 mm long, linear to narrow-oblong, greenish yellow, apex obtuse. Carpels 1-5, us. 1-2 maturing, stigma apical. Stamens 5-20. Fruit a 2-3-seeded fleshy globose to subglobose berry, 5-6 mm diam., dark red or black, flesh red. Seed 1- or 3-angled, obovate to elliptic, 2.6-3.6 mm, surface irregular.



Foliage. Boulder Hill, western Hutt hills.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Foliage. Boulder Hill, western Hutt hills.
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SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar in appearance to *P. axillaris* which has shining green leaves that are not white underneath and the rare *P. insperata* of Northland which often has small hairs on the leaf underside and has 13-22 stamens. Neither of these 2 species have leaves that are particularly peppery to taste.

FLOWERING

November-March

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

December-June

THREATS

Not Threatened. Often one of the few shrub species in heavily browsed forests

ETYMOLOGY

pseudowintera: False Wintera (a related genus)

colorata: Coloured

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961, Heenan and de Lange (2006), Eagle (2000), Webb and Simpson (2001).

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pseudowintera colorata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudowintera-colorata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudowintera-colorata/>