

# Pseudowintera traversii

## COMMON NAMES

peppertree

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small shrub found in the northern West Coast area with small oval leaves that are white and dotted with glands underneath.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Depressed to erect shrub to 1.5 m tall; trunks and branches upright or spreading, sometimes layering; bark rough, reddish brown dark; branchlets pale green or yellowish, viscid. Plants glabrous. Leaves close-set, alternate, pungent and mildly pepper-tasting; petiole stout, appressed or ascending, c. 5 mm long, greenish; midvein inconspicuous above, raised below; lamina 10-25 x 6-10 mm, obovate to broad-elliptic, margin thick, planar, tip obtuse or sometime retuse, very thick and coriaceous, upper surface matt dull olive-green, not blotched, undersides glaucous, dotted, both midrib and thickened margin yellow. Juvenile leaves larger. Inflorescences inconspicuous, axillary, flowers bisexual, c. 1 cm diam., in fascicles of 1-2, on decurved pedicels 1-5 mm long, bracts ciliate. Calyx cupule margins entire. Corolla comprised of 5-6 free petals, these 4-5 mm long, oblong to narrow-ovate, greenish yellow, apex obtuse. Carpels 1-2, stigma apical. Stamens 4-11. Fruit a 3-6-seeded fleshy depressed-obovoid berry, 2-3 mm diam., black, flesh red. Seed 1- or 3-angled, elliptic-obovate, 3.2-4.0 mm, surface irregular.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Could be confused with *Coprosma crassifolia*, which also has small leaves that are white underneath, but the leaves of *P. traversii* are always in opposite pairs and are rounded rather than alternate and oval (and also usually larger).

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Northern West Coast and Nelson, from Collingwood southwards to Westport.

## HABITAT

Montane and subalpine forest margins

## GENUS

*Pseudowintera*

## FAMILY

Winteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pseudowintera traversii* (Buchanan) Dandy



In cultivation ex Mt Burnett. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/07/2007, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Mt Burnett. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/07/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## SYNONYMS

Hymenanthera traversii Buchanan, Drimys traversii (Buchanan) Kirk, Wintera monogyna Tiegh.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

(January)

## FRUITING

(February)

## ETYMOLOGY

**pseudowintera:** False Wintera (a related genus)

**traversii:** Named after William Thomas Locke Travers (1819-1903) who was an Irish lawyer, magistrate, politician, explorer, naturalist, photographer. He lived in New Zealand from 1849 and was a fellow of the Linnean Society.

## NVS CODE

PSETRA

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 86

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## 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

Wilson, H; Galloway, T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Heenan and de Lange (2006), Eagle (2000), Webb and Simpson (2001) and Wilson and Galloway (1993).

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## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

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