# Raukaua anomalus

## BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

## CATEGORY
Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
Bushy small-leaved shrub with hairy branchlets and flattened leaf stalks

## FLOWER COLOURS
Green



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 03/03/2009, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 12/01/2009, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Shrub to 3 m tall; branchlets hairy with stiff dark bristles, densely divaricating, interlacing; bark grey. Leaves alternate or fascicled, in juvenile plants 3-foliolate; adult leaves single; stipules absent. Petioles of juvenile winged,to 2.5 cm long, 5 mm long in adult, jointed to lamina; minute straw coloured scales at petiole base and internodes. Lamina 1-2 x 1-1.5 cm, obovate-oblong to suborbicular, crenate to sinuate, often mucronate, subcoriaceous, often with dark blotch at base; margin irregularly serrate to sinuate in juvenile, sinuate to minutely crenate in adult, teeth often terminating in a soft point; veins indistinct. Inflorescence axillary, a simple umbel, 2-10 flowered; rays short. Flowers small, green, hermaphroditic, passing through various stages; calyx minutely 5-toothed; ovary 2-loculed, each with 1 ovule; style branches 2, free at tips, connate; stamens 5, projecting, < petals. Fruit fleshy, 4-5 mm wide, laterally compressed, green ripening to either dark brown, blotched reddish purple, or pale cream; style bases retained on apical disc. Seeds 2 per fruit, broadly ovate or oblong and straight along ventral edge, surface irregularly ridged and dimpled, 2.4-3.8 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA
Vegetatively most similar to either Melicope simplex, which has glabrous branchlets, or Aristotelia fruticosa, which has leaf veins obvious below, or Melicytus micranthus, which has a pale blotch at the leaf base.

## DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. North, South and Stewart Island. Widespread, but often localised

## HABITAT
Lowland to montane forest margins and shrubland. Near sea level to 900 m.

## GENUS
Raukaua

## FAMILY
Araliaceae

## AUTHORITY
Raukaua anomalus (Hook.f.) A.D.Mitch., Frodin et Heads

## SYNONYMS
Pseudopanax anomalus (Hook.) Philipson; Neopanax anomalum (Hook.) Allan; Panax anomalum Hook.; Nothopanax anomalum (Hook.) Seem

## TAXONOMIC NOTES
Recently Frodin & Govaerts (2003) transferred the Chilean species Pseudopanax laetevirens (Miq.) Ball and Tasmanian P. gunnii (Hook.f.) K.Koch to Raukaua.

## ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS
No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FACU: Facultative Upland
Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

## CULTIVATION
Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

## ETYMOLOGY
**raukaua**: From the Maori name for R. edgerleyi, raukawa
**anomalus**: From the Greek anomalia 'unusual'

## NVS CODE
RAUANO

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = c.24

## 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 At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, DE, PF, RF 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
Eagle, A. 2000. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of NZ. Te Papa Press, Wellington
Frodin, D.G.; Govaerts, R. 2003: World Checklist and Bibliography of Araliaceae, The Cromwell Press, European Union.
Moorfield, J. C. (2005). Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.
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 NZ. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Eagle (2000), Frodin and Govaerts (2003), Moorfield (2005), Webb and Simpson (2001) and Wilson and Galloway (1993).

## MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/raukaua-anomalus/

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026