

# Raukaua anomalus

## SYNONYMS

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

## FAMILY

Araliaceae

## AUTHORITY

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

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

RAUANO

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = c.24$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

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

## 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.



Pinehaven, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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## FEATURES

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.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green

## ETYMOLOGY

**raukaua:** From the Maori name for *R. edgerleyi*, raukawa

**anomalus:** From the Greek anomalia 'unusual'

## WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

## NOTES ON TAXONOMY

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

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## 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.

## MORE INFORMATION

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