

# Raukaua edgerleyi

## COMMON NAMES

raukawa

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: CD, DPS, DPT, PF

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Tree with fragrant glossy adult leaves on long petioles and juveniles with uneven leaves arranged like fingers on a hand

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree 10-12 m tall; glabrous, branchlets ascending, bark cream to pale grey, rough. Leaves alternate, in juvenile plants 3-5-foliolate; adult leaves single; stipules absent. Petioles of juvenile to 10 cm long, 1.5-5 cm long in adults, reddish. Juvenile lamina 5-15 x 1.5-3.5 cm, linear oblong, deeply lobed, lobes acuminate to acute, terminal lamina subsessile or shortly petiolulate, thin. Adult lamina becoming entire, 5-10 cm long, membranous to subcoriaceous, obovate to elliptic-oblong, acuminate to obtuse, base cuneate, shiny dark green above, paler below, veins visible above and below, midrib raised, green above, reddish below and often bearing small hooks, aromatic when crushed. Inflorescence axillary, a raceme bearing three or more 10-15 flowered umbellules on short peduncles. Flowers 4-5 mm in diameter, green, in male or female clusters on same raceme; calyx minutely 5-toothed; ovary 2-4-carpellate; style branches (2)-3-4, connate, free at tips; stamens 5, projecting, < petals. Fruit fleshy, 3-4 mm, globose, green ripening to dark purple; style bases retained on apical disc. Seeds 3-5 per fruit, ovate to broadly ovate, straight along ventral edge, surface irregularly ridged and dimpled, 2.0-3.4(-3.7) mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Juveniles often confused with juvenile *Schefflera digitata*, which usually has around 7 leaflets and the lobes are finely toothed. Adult may be confused with *Raukaua simplex*, whose leaflets are toothed and are not aromatic when crushed.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North (Kaitia southwards), South and Stewart Islands. Scattered and infrequent.

## HABITAT

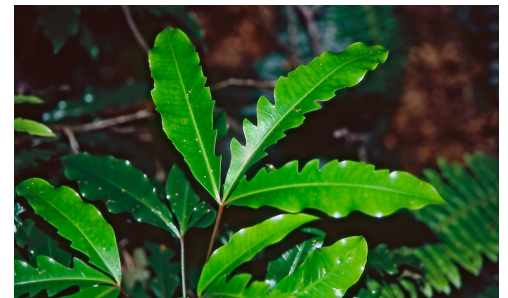
Lowland to montane forest. Near sea level to 900 m a.s.l.

## THREATS

Heavily browsed by mammalian browsers. Consequently infrequently encountered throughout its range



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## GENUS

Raukaua

## FAMILY

Araliaceae

## AUTHORITY

Raukaua edgerleyi (Hook.f.) Seem.

## SYNONYMS

Panax edgerleyi Hook.f., Nothopanax edgerleyi (Hook.f.) Harms, Pseudopanax edgerleyi (Hook.f.) C.Koch in C.Koch et Fint; Raukaua edgerleyi var. edgerleyi (Hook.f.) Seem.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

Mitchell et al. accepted var. serratus (T.Kirk)A.D.Mitchell, D.Frodin et M.Heads for plants on Stewart Island and western Fiordland with adult leaves coarsely serrate and 2-3 carpellate ovaries. However plants with these characters can be found elsewhere and adult plants with entire leaves are also found on Stewart Island. It is possible that var. serratus is of hybrid origin.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

September to December

## FRUITING

October to March but some fruit may be present throughout the year

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. Can be tricky to maintain. Likes damp soils and a semi-shaded situation, but in cooler and wetter climates it will grow in exposed situations.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for November 2008](#) for the full story.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**edgerleyi:** Named after John Edgerley (1814 - 1849) who spent time in New Zealand and Australia

## NVS CODE

RAUEDG

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.24

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: CD, RF

2004 | Gradual Decline

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, DPR, DPS, DPT, INC, PF, RR, 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

Mitchell, A.D, Frodin, D.G, Heads, M.J. 1997. Reinstatement of *Raukaua*, a genus of the Araliaceae centred on New Zealand. NZ J. Botany 305: 309-315

Wilson, H & Galloway, T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of NZ. Manuka Press, Christchurch

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.

Moorfield, J. C. (2005). *Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index*. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description by M.J. Thorsen 29 October 2010 adapted from the references cited below.

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026