

Raukaua simplex

COMMON NAMES

haumakoroa

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small tree with different adult (single) and juvenile (trifoliolate) toothed leaves on long red stalks and flattened fruit in small clusters

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Monoecious. Small much branched tree to 8 m tall; all parts glabrous; bark whiteish grey, branchlets non-fleshy. **Leaves** alternate; stipules absent.

Seedling leaves unifoliolate, becoming 3–5-foliolate in juvenile stage and then 1–3-foliolate in adult. **Juvenile leaves** sessile or subsessile, 4–15 cm long, narrowly oblong to elliptic, deeply lobed to pinnatifid, lobes acute to obtuse; petioles to 10 cm long. **Later juvenile** leaves shorter, 5–8 cm long, elliptic to obovate-oblong to lanceolate, acute or obtuse, margins sharply to bluntly serrate, petioles to 6 cm long. **Adult leaves** usually unifoliolate, but trifoliolate leaves common, 5–10 × 1.5–4 cm, coriaceous, dark green above, paler below, variously shaped from lanceolate to obovate-oblong, sharply serrate, tip acuminate to acute to obtuse, veins obvious, raised; petiole 3–8 cm long, reddish, non-clasping, terminating in small node in unifoliolate leaves. **Inflorescence** axillary, a compound raceme. **Umbellule** 5–15 flowered; rays short. **Flowers** small, green; calyx minutely 5-toothed; ovary 2-loculed, each with 1 ovule; style branches 2, free at tips, strongly curved, connate; stamens 5, projecting.

SIMILAR TAXA

Vegetatively similar to some other *Pseudopanax* species and *Raukaua edgerleyi*. The unifoliolate leaves with a small node at the distal end of the petiole is distinctive, but trifoliolate specimens can be difficult to distinguish from other species unless flowering or fruiting. The sharply lobed juvenile leaves are distinctive except from *Raukaua edgeleyi* and *Schefflera digitata*. *R. edgerleyi* can be distinguished from *R. simplex* by its aromatic crushed leaves.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from Te Moehau (Coromandel) south), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Auckland Islands.

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest and also shrubland at tree line. Near seal level to 1400 m a.s.l.



Aorangi Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/09/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Cobb Valley. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 16/03/2016, Licence: CC BY.

GENUS

Raukaua

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Raukaua simplex (G.Forst.) A.D.Mitch., Frodin et Heads

SYNONYMS

Pseudopanax simplex (G.Forst.) Philipson; *Panax simplex* G.Forst.; *Nothopanax simplex* (G.Forst.) Seem; *Neopanax simplex* (G.Forst.) Allan

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Frodin & Govaerts (2004) transferred the Chilean species *Pseudopanax laetevirens* (Miq.) Ball and Tasmanian *P. gunnii* (Hook.f.) K.Koch to Raukaua.

Raukaua simplex var. *sinclairii* (Hook.f.) A.D.Mitchell, D.Frodin et M.Heads is the name given to specimens in the North Island that retain trifoliate leaves as an adult. The distinctiveness of this variety needs further consideration.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

(June)–October–March

FRUITING

(June)–October–March

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

ETYMOLOGY

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

simplex: Simple, not compound

NVS CODE

RAUSIM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 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 Data Deficient 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. 2006. Eagle’s complete trees and shrubs of New Zealand. Te Papa Press, Wellington, NZ. 2-volume boxed set: vol. 1 pp 1–529; vol. 2: pp 532–1114.

Frodin DG, Govaerts R. 2004. World Checklist and Bibliography of Araliaceae. Kew Publishing, London, UK. 456 p.

Mitchell AD, Frodin DG, Heads MJ. 1997. Reinstatement of *Raukaua*, a genus of the Araliaceae centred on New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35(3): 309–315. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1997.10410156>.

Moorfield JC. 2005. Te Aka : Māori-English, English-Māori dictionary and index. Longman/Pearson Education, Auckland, NZ. 357 p.

Webb CJ, Simpson MJA. 2001. Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch. 428 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Eagle (2006), Mitchell (2005), Mitchell et al (1997), and Webb and Simpson (2001).

MORE INFORMATION

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

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