

Rubus ellipticus var. obcordatus

COMMON NAMES

Himalayan wineberry, Himalayan raspberry

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

White



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout, weakly climbing, evergreen shrub; stems 3–5 m long, forming thickets several metres wide, primocanes erect, initially purple-brown maturing brownish, ±pubescent, densely invested with purple-brown or purple-red eglandular bristles, pale hyaline and sparse short glandular trichomes, armature mostly sparse, sometimes locally aggregated, glabrous prickles, these spreading or curved, up to 6 mm long; floricanes initially greenish, maturing purple-brown, sparsely to moderately pilose with similar investiture to primocanes; bearing sparse stout, straight to recurved, prickles up to 6 mm long, and more frequent smaller 3–4 mm long, slender, spreading prickles. Leaves persistent, imparipinnate, coriaceous, leaflets 3(–5)-foliolate; petiole 20–40 mm long, petiolules of lateral leaflets, subsessile sometimes up to 10 mm long, those of terminal leaflet 20–30 mm long; petiolule and rachis purple-red bristly, pubescent, with sparse minute prickles; stipules proximally pale green with distal portion darker purple-green, linear to narrowly linear deltoid, 7–11 × 1–3 mm, finely pubescent, with intermixed glandular hairs (these increasing in frequency toward apex); leaflets elliptic to broadly obcordate, 40–80(–90) × 30–60(–90) mm, terminal leaflet largest (60–80(–120) × 60–90 mm) with those of primocanes often smaller; adaxial leaflet surface dark green, deeply rugose, sparsely pilose, glabrescent, abaxial surface initially whitish maturing green-white, finely, densely velutinous, pilose, bearing purple-red bristles along veins, adaxially veins impressed, pubescent along midvein midrib bearing sparse, stout recurved prickles and smaller straight ones; leaflet base rounded, margin minutely unevenly serrulate, teeth acute; apex acute, abruptly pointed, shallowly cordate, emarginate or subtruncate. Inflorescences terminal, in dense, short panicles 50–80 × 20–60 mm, flowers (2–)5–10(–16) per inflorescence, or present as few-flowered, often paired (rarely solitary) flowers borne in leaf axils; rachis and pedicels greenish, pubescent, furnished with fine purple bristles and sparse straight or recurved short (0.8–1.5 mm long) prickles; bracts green, green brown to purple-green, linear, 5–8 finely pubescent. Pedicels 4–6(–8) mm long. Flowers 10–15 mm diameter. Calyx abaxially pubescent, tomentum pale yellow, velutinous, sparsely furnished with pale purple bristles; sepals ovate, 4–5(–6) × 2–3(–4) mm, abaxially pale yellow-grey tomentose, with sparse pale purple bristles, apex abruptly acute, sometimes ±acuminate. Petals white, ± spathulate, 7–9 × 8–10 mm, equal to or longer than sepals, margin praemorse, ± undulose, base clawed. Stamens numerous, shorter than petals; filaments broadened and flattened basally, anthers cream. Ovary pubescent; styles glabrous, slightly longer than stamens. Fruits not seen in New Zealand material to date.

SIMILAR TAXA

Rubus ellipticus var. *obcordatus* is superficially similar to Japanese wineberry (*R. phoenicolasius*). From that species it is easily distinguished by the darker green, deeply rugose, more finely serrated elliptic leaves with obcordate to truncate rather than acuminate leaflets; primo- and floricanes furnished with purple to purple-brown, purple-red eglandular bristles, linear to narrowly deltoid linear stipules, and flowers with white obovate to spathulate petals with praemorse apices. At the time of the discovery fruiting material was not present, however, the aggregate fruits of *Rubus ellipticus* are comprised of golden yellow rather than orange-red or dark red drupelets.

DISTRIBUTION

Auckland (Albany). Indigenous to tropical and subtropical continental Asia (China, Nepal, India) as well as Sri Lanka and the Philippines

HABITAT

Recorded from roadsides and in wasteland.

GENUS

Rubus

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Rubus ellipticus var. *obcordatus* (Franch.) Focke.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

May - August

FRUITING

Not yet seen in New Zealand

YEAR NATURALISED

2019

ORIGIN

Continental Asia (China, Nepal, India) as well as Sri Lanka and the Philippines

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Possibly as a food source (berries are edible).

ETYMOLOGY

rubus: From the Latin meaning bramble

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, Peter J., Blanchon, D.J., Doyle, E.J., Marshall, A. J., Schönberger, I., Killick, S. (2019). First record of Himalayan wineberry (*Rubus ellipticus* var. *obcordatus* (Franch.)Focke., Rosaceae) in New Zealand. *Perspectives in Biosecurity*, 4: 33–39.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (28 October 2019). Description by P.J. de Lange

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rubus-ellipticus-var-obcordatus/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/rubus-ellipticus-var-obcordatus/>

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