

Pseudopanax gilliesii

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small tree with a mix of single or 3 leathery leaflets on stalks that become much longer in the lower part of the twigs.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrubby much-branched small tree to 5 m tall; branchlets slender, fleshy, brittle, light green to purpled; bark pale brown, lenticels prominent. Leaves alternate, unifoliate intermixed with trifoliate or irregularly lobed leaves; Petioles 2-8 cm long; lamina coriaceous, glossy green above, paler green below, c. 4-8 cm long, ovate, acute to acuminate, sharply serrate, on long slender petioles to 14 cm long in lower part of branchlet, trifoliate leaflets sessile or on very short petiolule; midvein prominent, lateral veins obvious. Inflorescence a terminal umbel; primary rays 3-6, c. 8 cm long, flowers racemously arranged. Ovary 5-loculed, each containing 1 ovule (some aborted); style branches 5, connate. Fruit fleshy, subglobose, 6 x 5 mm, style branches retained on an apical disc, dark purple when ripe. Seeds 5 per fruit, narrowly ovate, 5.5-6.5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to *Pseudopanax discolor* from which it differs by the alternating whorls of unifoliate to trifoliate rather than 5-foliolate leaves, which are much thicker, more finely serrated and usually uniformly dark green to light green rather than green to yellow green, variously spotted or stained maroon. Aside from these differences the ranges of *P. gilliesii* and *P. discolor* don't overlap. *Pseudopanax gilliesii* might be confused with *P. lessonii*, with which it co-occurs. *Pseudopanax lessonii* is however a taller tree species, with much thicker 5-foliolate or trifoliate leaves with shallower toothing restricted to the distal 3/4 of the lamina.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Northeastern Northland

HABITAT

Coastal or lowland hardwood forest and shrubland

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT, RR
[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

THREATS

Probably a species naturally restricted to the northeastern non-basaltic Northland volcanics. Some habitat has been lost in the past to coastal development. Reports of this species occurring on Hauturu o Toi / Little Barrier Island are based on collections of what appears to be *Pseudopanax discolor* or perhaps a hybrid between that species and *P. lessonii*. *Pseudopanax gilliesii* is not found on that island/



Fruit. Auckland. Feb 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Pseudopanax gilliesii shrub. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudopanax gilliesii Kirk

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

pseudopanax: False cure

NVS CODE

PSEGIL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of NZ, Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington

Webb, C.J. & Simpson, M.J.A. 2001. Seeds of NZ gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb and Simpson (2001).

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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pseudopanax gilliesii* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudopanax-gilliesii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudopanax-gilliesii/>

PDF DATE

11 March 2025