

Raukaua anomalus

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

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

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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.

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.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

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

SYNONYMS

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



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 03/03/2009, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 12/01/2009, Licence: CC BY.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

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

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

OTHER INFORMATION

CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

ETYMOLOGY

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

anomalus: From the Greek *anomalia* 'unusual'

NVS CODE

RAUANO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.24

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2024 | Regionally Not Threatened

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

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.

ATTRIBUTION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

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