

# Fuscospora fusca

## COMMON NAMES

red beech

## SYNONYMS

*Fagus fusca* Hook. f., *Nothofagus fusca* (Hook.f.) Oerst.

## FAMILY

Nothofagaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Fuscospora fusca* (Hook.f.) Heenan et Smissen

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

NOTFUS

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 26

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Tall forest tree bearing masses of small sharply-toothed leaves that also have a small hairy pit at the junction of the veins. Trunk flaky. Leaves 2–4 cm long. Flowers and fruit small and usually inconspicuous but change colour of tree when in flower.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from latitude 37° southwards, except Mount Taranaki), South Island.

## HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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



Cobb Valley. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kaitoke Ridge Track, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/05/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree up to 30 metres tall; trunk up to 2 metres or more in diameter, often strongly buttressed. **Leaves** rather thin, coriaceous, 20–40 × 15–25 mm., on petioles up to 4 mm. long; lamina glabrous except on veins below, broad-ovate to ovate-oblong, coarsely, rather deeply sharply serrate with 6–8 pairs of teeth; venation distinct; fringed domatia 1–2 in basal vein axils. **Staminate inflorescences** 1–8 per branchlet; peduncles glabrous, up to 4 mm long, bearing 1–3 or rarely 5 subsessile flowers. Perianth 5 mm long, campanulate; shallowly obtusely 5 lobed, sparsely to rather densely pubescent. Stamens 8–11; anthers 3 mm long, red, yellow, or straw coloured. **Pistillate inflorescences** 1–5 per branchlet, sessile, ovoid to globose, 3 mm. long, glabrate, usually 3-flowered. Lateral flowers trimerous, terminal dimerous; stigmas ligulate, distinctly bilobed. Cupule pubescent, 4-partite; segments attenuate, up to 10 mm. long; glands between segments and bracts. **Nuts** 7 mm long, triquetrous or flat; wings broad at base, attenuate.

## FLOWERING

September–December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

## FRUITING

November–March

## ETYMOLOGY

**fusca**: Brown tinged with grey or black

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).

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## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.
- Anonymous. 1957. Construction of key for the genus *Nothofagus*. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 14: 2–3.
- Greenwood RM. 1951. The Red Beech. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 25: 6–9.
- Heenan PB, Smissen RD. 2013. Revised circumscription of *Nothofagus* and recognition of the segregate genera *Fuscospora*, *Lophozonia*, and *Trisyngyne* (Nothofagaceae). *Phytotaxa* 146: 1–31.
- <http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.146.1.1>.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/fuscospora-fusca/>

## PDF DATE

17 September 2024