

# Pseudopanax lessonii

## COMMON NAMES

Houpara

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Coastal tree with fleshy hand-shaped leaves

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small tree to 6 m tall; branches stout, with leaves crowded towards tips of branchlets. Leaves alternate, leaflets 3-5, palmate, lateral leaflets smaller; juvenile leaves larger than adult. Petiole to 15 cm long, stout, sheathing stem at base; stipules absent. Leaflets sessile, terminal leaflet on short petiolule, obovate-cuneate, sinuate-crenate to bluntly serrate in distal half, subacute to obtuse, dark green above, paler beneath, midvein obvious, lateral veins obscure, c. 5-10 x 2-4 cm. Inflorescence a terminal compound umbel; male (staminate) primary rays (branchlets) 4-8 c. 4-5 cm long, flowers racemously arranged along secondary rays; pistillate (female) primary rays shorter, flowers in irregular umbellules. Petals greenish, acute; anthers on filaments < petals. Ovary 5-loculed, each containing 1 ovule; style branches 5, conate, tips spreading. Fruit fleshy, dark purple, broadly oblong, 7 x 5 mm, style branches retained on an apical disc. 5 Seeds per fruit, narrowly ovate to ovate or oblong, dimpled, 5.5-8.0 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Vegetatively similar to *Pseudopanax colensoi* which has obviously-toothed leaflets

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Three Kings to Poverty Bay and northern Taranaki

## HABITAT

Coastal forest and scrub

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## DETAILED TAXONOMY

## FAMILY

Araliaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pseudopanax lessonii* (DC.) K.Koch

## SYNONYMS

*Panax lessonii* DC.



Motuoruhi, Coromandel, March. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Motuoruhi, Coromandel, March. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## OTHER INFORMATION

### ETYMOLOGY

**pseudopanax**: False cure

### NVS CODE

PSELES

### CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

### PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

### REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

#### REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Eagle, A. 2000. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of NZ. Te Papa Press, Wellington

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

#### ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Eagle (2006) and Webb and Simpson (2001).

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#### MORE INFORMATION

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

#### PDF DATE

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