

Pseudowintera traversii

SYNONYMS

Hymenanthera traversii Buchanan, Drimys traversii (Buchanan) Kirk, Wintera monogyna Tiegh.

FAMILY

Winteraceae

AUTHORITY

Pseudowintera traversii (Buchanan) Dandy

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PSETRA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 86

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small shrub found in the northern West Coast area with small oval leaves that are white and dotted with glands underneath

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Northern West Coast and Nelson from Collingwood southwards to Westport

HABITAT

Montane and subalpine forest margins



Perry saddle, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



At Perry saddle, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Depressed to erect shrub to 1.5 m tall; trunks and branches upright or spreading, sometimes layering; bark rough, reddish brown dark; branchlets pale green or yellowish, viscid. Plants glabrous. Leaves close-set, alternate, pungent and mildly pepper-tasting; petiole stout, appressed or ascending, c. 5 mm long, greenish; midvein inconspicuous above, raised below; lamina 10-25 x 6-10 mm, obovate to broad-elliptic, margin thick, planar, tip obtuse or sometime retuse, very thick and coriaceous, upper surface matt dull olive-green, not blotched, undersides glaucous, dotted, both midrib and thickened margin yellow. Juvenile leaves larger. Inflorescences inconspicuous, axillary, flowers bisexual, c. 1 cm diam., in fascicles of 1-2, on decurved pedicels 1-5 mm long, bracts ciliate. Calyx cupule margins entire. Corolla comprised of 5-6 free petals, these 4-5 mm long, oblong to narrow-ovate, greenish yellow, apex obtuse. Carpels 1-2, stigma apical. Stamens 4-11. Fruit a 3-6-seeded fleshy depressed-obovoid berry, 2-3 mm diam., black, flesh red. Seed 1- or 3-angled, elliptic-obovate, 3.2-4.0 mm, surface irregular.

SIMILAR TAXA

Perhaps could be confused with *Coprosma crassifolia* which also has small leaves that are white underneath, but the leaves of this species are always in opposite pairs and are rounded rather than alternate and oval (and also usually larger).

FLOWERING

(January)

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

(February)

ETYMOLOGY

pseudowintera: False *Wintera* (a related genus)

traversii: Named after William Thomas Locke Travers (1819-1903) who was an Irish lawyer, magistrate, politician, explorer, naturalist, photographer. He lived in New Zealand from 1849 and was a fellow of the Linnean Society.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Allan (1961), Heenan and de Lange (2006), Eagle (2000), Webb and Simpson (2001) and Wilson and Galloway (1993).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Government Printer, Wellington

Heenan, P.B, de Lange, P.J. 2006. *Pseudowintera insperata* (Winteraceae), an overlooked and rare new species from northern New Zealand. NZ J. Botany 44: 89-98

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

Wilson, H; Galloway, T. 1993. Small-leaved shrubs of New Zealand. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pseudowintera traversii* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudowintera-traversii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pseudowintera-traversii/>