

Raukua simplex

COMMON NAME

haumakoroa

SYNONYMS

Pseudopanax simplex (G.Forst.) Philipson; *Panax simplex* G.Forst.;
Nothopanax simplex (G.Forst.) Seem; *Neopanax simplex* (G.Forst) Allan

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Raukua simplex (G.Forst.) A.D.Mitch., Frodin et Heads

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

RAUSIM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small tree with different adult (single) and juvenile (trifoliolate) toothed leaves on long red stalks and flattened fruit in small clusters

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from Te Moehau (Coromandel) south), South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Auckland Islands.

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest and also shrubland at tree line. Near seal level to 1400 m a.s.l.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).



Rotoiti, Nelson, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Aorangi Forest Park. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/09/2007, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Monoecious. Small much branched tree to 8 m tall; all parts glabrous; bark whiteish grey, branchlets non-fleshy. **Leaves** alternate; stipules absent. **Seedling leaves** unifoliate, becoming 3-5-foliate in juvenile stage and then 1-3-foliate in adult. **Juvenile leaves** sessile or subsessile, 4-15 cm long, narrowly oblong to elliptic, deeply lobed to pinnatifid, lobes acute to obtuse; petioles to 10 cm long. **Later juvenile** leaves shorter, 5-8 cm long, elliptic to obovate-oblong to lanceolate, acute or obtuse, margins sharply to bluntly serrate, petioles to 6 cm long. **Adult leaves** usually unifoliate, but trifoliate leaves common, 5-10 × 1.5-4 cm, coriaceous, dark green above, paler below, variously shaped from lanceolate to obovate-oblong, sharply serrate, tip acuminate to acute to obtuse, veins obvious, raised; petiole 3-8 cm long, reddish, non-clasping, terminating in small node in unifoliate leaves. **Inflorescence** axillary, a compound raceme. **Umbellule** 5-15 flowered; rays short. **Flowers** small, green; calyx minutely 5-toothed; ovary 2-loculed, each with 1 ovule; style branches 2, free at tips, strongly curved, connate; stamens 5, projecting.

SIMILAR TAXA

Vegetatively similar to some other *Pseudopanax* species and *Raukaua edgerleyi*. The unifoliate leaves with a small node at the distal end of the petiole is distinctive, but trifoliate specimens can be difficult to distinguish from other species unless flowering or fruiting. The sharply lobed juvenile leaves are distinctive except from *Raukaua edgerleyi* and *Schefflera digitata*. *R. edgerleyi* can be distinguished from *R. simplex* by its aromatic crushed leaves.

FLOWERING

(June)-October-March

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

FRUITING

(June)-October-March

ETYMOLOGY

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

simplex: Simple, not compound

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

NOTES ON TAXONOMY

Frodin & Govaerts (2004) transferred the Chilean species *Pseudopanax laetevirens* (Miq.) Ball and Tasmanian *P. gunnii* (Hook.f.) K.Koch to *Raukaua*.

Raukaua simplex var. *sinclairii* (Hook.f.) A.D.Mitchell, D.Frodin et M.Heads is the name given to specimens in the North Island that retain trifoliate leaves as an adult. The distinctiveness of this variety needs further consideration.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Eagle (2006), Mitchell (2005), Mitchell et al (1997), and Webb and Simpson (2001).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Eagle A. 2006. Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of New Zealand. Te Papa Press, Wellington, NZ. 2-volume boxed set: vol. 1 pp 1-529; vol. 2: pp 532-1114.

Frodin DG, Govaerts R. 2004. World Checklist and Bibliography of Araliaceae. Kew Publishing, London, UK. 456 p.

Mitchell AD, Frodin DG, Heads MJ. 1997. Reinstatement of *Raukaua*, a genus of the Araliaceae centred on New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35(3): 309-315. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1997.10410156>.

Moorfield JC. 2005. Te Aka : Māori-English, English-Māori dictionary and index. Longman/Pearson Education, Auckland, NZ. 357 p.

Webb CJ, Simpson MJA. 2001. Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch. 428 p.

MORE INFORMATION

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