

Berberis glaucocarpa

COMMON NAMES

barberry

FAMILY

Berberidaceae

AUTHORITY

Berberis glaucocarpa Stapf

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

BERGLA

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous, evergreen or semi-deciduous shrub to c. 7m high. Spines to 2.3 cm long, sometimes single, sometimes 3-partite. Lvs with short petiole to 5 mm long. Lamina up to 7.5 x 2.5 cm, oblanceolate but often very variable on one plant, spiny margins and shining above. Flowers yellow, sometimes with outer parts red-tinged, arranged in simple or compound racemes to 6 cm long. Berry 7-12mm long, broadly ellipsoid to subglobose, reddish black, with an obvious white bloom. Juice dark red with seed about 1mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

The combination of large spiny leaves, and 3-partite spines to 2.5 cm long distinguish *B. glaucocarpa* from other berberis species naturalised in New Zealand. It also grows to about 7 m which is much taller than the other species.

FLOWERING

October, November

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

FRUITING

December, January, February

LIFE CYCLE

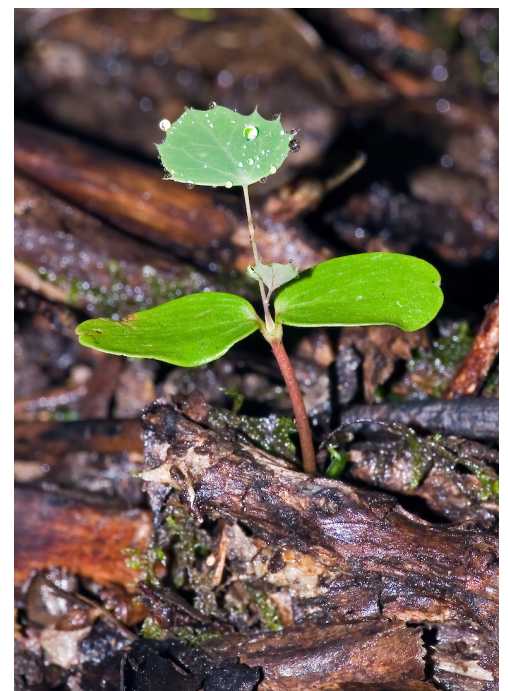
Perennial. Produces seed which is dispersed birds and vertebrates.

YEAR NATURALISED

1916



Cannon Point Walkway, Upper Hutt.
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:
10/03/2013, Licence: CC BY.



Seedling. Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt.
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:
25/06/2006, Licence: CC BY.

ORIGIN

W Himalaya

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

TOLERANCES

Thought not to be as shade tolerant as other Berberis species. Requires moderate fertility.

ETYMOLOGY

berberis: From the Arabic name berberys

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/berberis-glaucocarpa/>

PDF DATE

17 September 2024