

Lophozonia menziesii

COMMON NAME

silver beech

SYNONYMS

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

FAMILY

Nothofagaceae

AUTHORITY

Lophozonia menziesii (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

NOTMEN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 26

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Very common forest canopy tree with silvery bark and bearing rough-edged small leathery leaves arranged along the twig. Leaves almost as wide as long, 6–15 mm long, with uneven blunt teeth on margin and with small hairy pits at the junction of the veins. Flowers and fruits inconspicuous, but colour tree.

DISTRIBUTION

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

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest or as shrub in subalpine scrub.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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



Silver beech. Photographer: Department of Conservation, Licence: Public domain.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree up to 30 metres tall; trunk up to 2 metres diameter, often buttressed; branchlet-pubescence fulvous. **Leaves** thick, coriaceous, rigid; 6–15 × 5–15 mm, on petioles 2–3 mm long; lamina glabrous except on veins below, broad-to deltoid-ovate to suborbicular, doubly crenate, cuneate at base; venation rather obscure; fringed domatia 1–2 in basal vein-axils. **Staminate inflorescences** 1–4 per branchlet; peduncles 2–3 mm long, sparsely pubescent, with 1 terminal flower. Perianth 5–6 mm diameter, of 2 unequal lobes, each again 2–3-partite. Stamens 30–36; anthers 2–3 mm long, red above, greenish below, or straw coloured. **Pistillate inflorescences** 1–4 per branchlet, (2)–3-flowered, on short densely pubescent peduncles. Lateral flowers trimerous, terminal dimerous or aborted; stigmas ligulate. Cupule 6–7 mm. long, 4-segmented, with 4–5 rows of gland-tipped processes, subtended by 2 foliaceous bracts. **Nuts** puberulous, 5 mm long; lateral triquetrous, 3-winged; terminal flat, 2-winged; wings produced above, gland-tipped.

FLOWERING

November–January

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

FRUITING

January–March

ATTRIBUTION

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

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.

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>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lophozonia-menziesii/>