

Essential Oils from the Leaves of Three New Zealand Species of *Pseudopanax* (Araliaceae)

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Essential oils from three of the eleven endemic New Zealand species of *Pseudopanax*, *P. arboreus*, *P. discolor* and *P. lessonii*, were found to have a fairly uniform composition which was different from that of the oils of *Raukaua* species that were formerly classified in the *Pseudopanax* genus. Oils of the three *Pseudopanax* species all contained significant proportions of viridiflorol and a closely related unidentified hydroazulene alcohol in common. In addition, the oil of *P. arboreus* contained bicyclogermacrene, linalool and long chain hydrocarbons. The oil of *P. discolor* contained nerolidol in abundance (36.3%) together with linalool and *epi*- α -muurolol. The oil of *P. lessonii* contained a complex mixture of sesquiterpene alcohols including *epi*- α -muurolol and a mixture of long chain hydrocarbons. Nerolidol and linalool provided the oil of *P. discolor* with a pleasant floral aroma, but the yield of oil was very low (0.01%).

Key words: *Pseudopanax arboreus*, *discolor* and *lessonii*, Araliaceae, Essential Oil