

MEKA RĀKAU

# Mataī

(Black pine)

*Prumnopitys taxifolia*

Sparklers



## MEKA RĀKAU

# Characteristics

Mataī is a hard, reddish-brown rākau.

Like other giants of our forest, tōtara and kauri, they can live for a very long time - more than 1000 years!

The bark looks a bit like it has been hit with a hammer. When peeled away, it appears very red.

They produce edible blue-black fruit, a bit like olives, that are loved by manu such as kererū.



## MEKA RĀKAU

Mataī grow very slowly.

They begin life as a small shrub with tangled branches and tiny brown leaves, before growing into a big sturdy rākau!

**Are you patient like a mataī?**



MEKA RĀKAU

**What can we learn from  
Mataī?**

**How might we apply this  
in our classroom?**

