

Mataī (Black pine)

Prumnopitys taxifolia





## MEKA RĀKAU

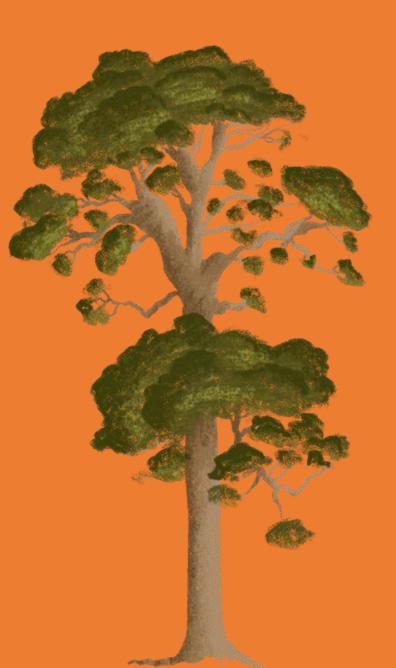
## **Characteristics**

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?

