

# *Pimelea tomentosa*

## THYMELAEACEAE

### Status

Serious Decline

### Description

An erect, grey-green, leafy shrub up to 1 m tall. Branches are slender and straight, with prominent leaf scars. Bark orange-brown. Young branchlets have whitish hairs. The grey-green, soft lance-shaped leaves are up to 25 mm long, with pale silky hairs on their undersides. The black fleshy fruits are very conspicuous, terminating the branch ends wherever flowers have been present. Flowering and fruiting specimens may be seen throughout the year.

### Similar species

*Pimelea prostrata* is a common component of coastal cliffs and shrubland vegetation. It has several variable forms but the leaves are smaller (3–6 × 1–3 mm) than of *P. tomentosa*, its habit is prostrate to sprawling and it has smaller, less conspicuous white fleshy fruits. Sand daphne (*Pimelea arenaria*) has a similar habit but only occurs in dunes and dune hollows, has shorter, more rounded leaves than *P. tomentosa* and smaller red fruits.

### Habitat

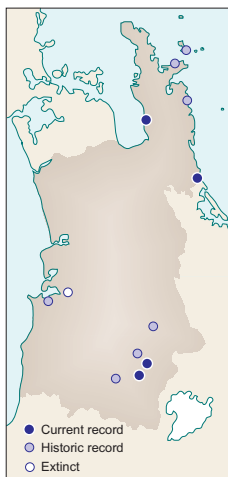
Open cliff tops, in scrub, frost flats, track sides and other seral habitats.

### Distribution

Endemic to New Zealand, occurring throughout the North Island and northern South Island. In the Waikato, it is known from a few sites on the east and west coasts of the Coromandel Peninsula, near Kawhia and at Pureora.

### Threats

Habitat loss through development, land clearance, succession, track maintenance and competition with weeds.

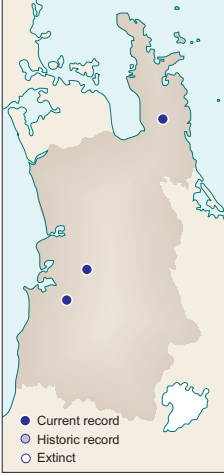


*Pimelea tomentosa*.

Photo: A.J. Townsend.

# *Pittosporum kirkii*

Kirk's kohuhu



## PITTOSPORACEAE

### Status

Serious Decline

### Description

A small, openly-branched shrub to 4 m tall with stout, purplish branches. Leaves are crowded towards the tips of the branch on 10 mm long stalks. The leaf blade is thick and fleshy, and broadens towards a rounded tip; leaves are 50–100 mm long by 20–30 mm wide. Flowers are either solitary or in clusters of up to four at the tips of branches, bright yellow and appear in November. Fruit are oval, woody capsules up to 40 mm long that split in half to reveal black seeds sitting in yellow sticky pulp, and appear in January.

### Similar species

*Pittosporum cornifolium*, another epiphyte, has leaves that are usually shorter, broader and much thinner, and the inside of the capsules are shiny and bright orange. Kirk's kohuhu could also be confused with Kirk's tree daisy (*Brachyglottis kirkii* var. *kirkii*) but that species has white daisy-like flowers and dandelion-like wind-borne seeds.



*Pittosporum kirkii*.  
Photo: E.K. Cameron.

**Habitat**

Usually epiphytic, rarely terrestrial.

**Distribution**

Endemic to the northern half or the North Island, from Mangonui to Raetihi. In the Waikato locally common in parts of the Coromandel Ranges, scarce elsewhere.

**Threats**

Forest clearance, possum browse.

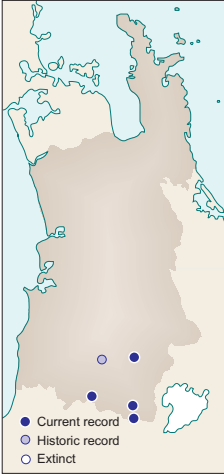


*Pittosporum kirkii*.

Photo: A. Brandon.

# *Pittosporum turneri*

Turner's kohuhu



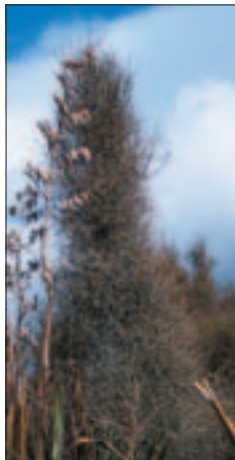
## PITTOSPORACEAE

### Status

Nationally Endangered

### Description

A shrub or small tree to 7 m tall with distinct juvenile and adult stages. Juvenile plants are divaricating shrubs with a distinct cylindrical shape created by the interlacing, hexagonal angles of the branches. Juvenile leaves are narrowly oblong, 3–20 × 2–5 mm irregularly lobed and/or toothed along the margin and variously coloured red, pink, blue-grey or pale olive-green. The branches of adult plants are not divaricating and as the lower, juvenile branches are lost, the tree takes on a more top-heavy and mushroom-shaped appearance. The oblong 30–50 × 5–10 mm, strap-like, leathery, adult leaves are usually entire but may be lobed or toothed near the apex. Plants are usually either male or female and flowers are creamy red. Flowering occurs from October to December and fruiting from January. If fruits are not dispersed they persist on the tree to the following flowering season.



*Pittosporum turneri*.

Photos: N. Singers.

**Similar species**

Juvenile pokaka can look similar but does not have hexagonal branch angles, and has a larger number of longer, more heavily lobed and serrate linear leaves.

**Habitat**

A component of forest and scrub alongside streams and frost flats on volcanic soils.

**Distribution**

Endemic, confined to the central North Island, from southern Pureora to the Ruahine Range.

**Threats**

Known to be highly susceptible to possum browse, possibly susceptible to other browsers; habitat loss due to land development for grazing and forestry; weed invasion and succession as vegetation matures; skewed sex ratios in small populations mean that pollination sometimes may not occur; possible lack of dispersal due to decline in birds.

*Pittosporum turneri*.  
Photo: N. Singers.



# *Plumatochilos tasmanicum*

## ORCHIDACEAE

### Status

Serious Decline

### Description

A distinctive greenhood orchid with a leafy rosette and usually a single flower. Rosettes have 8 to 14 leaves, each up to 25 × 7 mm. The flowering plant is usually about 100 mm tall (but can be up to 250 mm), with a thin stem (1.5 mm diameter) and has a few leaves sheathing it. The tubular helmet-shaped green flower is upright. Protruding from the flower is a very distinctive yellow, feathery, pendulous lip (labellum) terminated by small brown or red ball-like callus, below which sits a pair of forked sepals that are bent abruptly downwards. The enclosing petals of the flower are translucent pale green with darker green veins. Flowering occurs from October to December.

### Similar species

None

### Habitat

Scrub or forest margins, in damp mossy areas or drier more exposed sites. Often under gorse or manuka on clay hillsides.

### Distribution

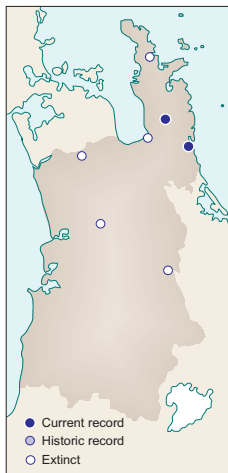
Indigenous to Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand known from The Three Kings Islands, Northland, Waikato, Wellington and Nelson. In the Waikato it was first reported in the 1990s, from the Kauaeranga Valley and near Whangamata on the lower Coromandel Peninsula.

### Threats

Lack of fires, competition from weeds (gorse) and over-collection by orchid enthusiasts. This species requires frequent disturbance, usually from fires to maintain an open habitat.

### Comments

Until recently this orchid has been called *Pterostylis tasmanica*.

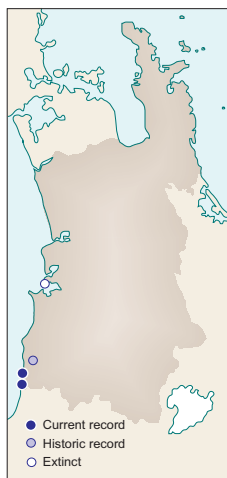


*Plumatochilos tasmanicum*.

Photo: A.J. Townsend.

# *Pomaderris apetala* subsp. *maritima*

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## RHAMNACEAE

### Status

Nationally Critical

### Description

A tree or shrub to 6 m tall. Leaves are oval, in opposite pairs, 50–100 mm long. The upper surface is wrinkled while the lower one is covered with dense, white hairs. Flowers are 6 mm diameter, pale green and lack petals. Seeds are produced in a black capsule. Flowering generally occurs from November to February and fruiting from January to March, though this varies.

### Similar species

None

### Habitat

Coastal forest and scrub.

### Distribution

Indigenous. Common in Tasmania, rather local on the adjacent Victorian Coast of Australia where it overlaps with subsp. *apetala*. In New Zealand it is very local. Formerly occurring on the western North Island at scattered sites between the Kawhia Harbour, Mokau and Mohakatino, it is now only known from two sites, one at Mokau and one at the mouth of the Mohakatino River. Despite its natural rarity this species has naturalised extremely well in the drier parts of the eastern South Island, on Stewart Island, around Wellington, Napier and in some locations around Hamilton and Cambridge.



*Pomaderris apetala* subsp. *maritima*. Photo: C. Bull.

### Threats

Habitat loss through coastal development, weed invasion, goat browse, and recruitment failure.



*Pomaderris apetala* subsp.  
*maritima*. Photo: C. Bull.