

Leucopogon xerampelinus

COMMON NAME

Surville Cliffs mingimingi

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 2003)

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Leucopogon xerampelinus de Lange, Heenan et M.I.Dawson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, ST, OL

2004 | Range Restricted

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low growing reddish prickly shrub bearing hard narrow sharp leaves and short spikes of small white bell-shaped flowers inhabiting the northern tip of North Island. Leaves 10-25mm long by 1.5-4mm wide. Flowers hairy at top, bell-shaped, 1.5mm wide, in clusters of short spikes along twigs.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, North Cape & Surville Cliffs only

HABITAT

Confined to ultramafic rock and soils where it is a common component of the low windshorn scrub, gullies, cliff faces and talus slopes of that area.



Surville Cliffs (Sept). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Surville Cliffs. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Low-growing sprawling subshrub, usually up to 20 cm tall and up to 1 m diam. Branches and branchlets prostrate to decumbent; branchlets c. 1 mm diam., red-brown, with bifarious pubescence or \pm glabrous. Leaves spirally arranged, crowded on stems, usually patent, internodes 1.0–1.5 mm. Lamina narrow lanceolate to narrow elliptic, 10.0–25.0 x 1.5–4.0 mm, rigid, planar, red-brown, coriaceous, glabrous; apex mucronate, flushed red; veins prominent, usually 5–7 main veins, light red-brown, adaxial surface slightly rugose; margins entire, rarely with a few teeth at distal end; petiole 0.5–1.0 mm long, attenuate, pale green to cream. Inflorescences axillary and terminal, racemose, flowers hermaphrodite. Peduncle up to 10 mm long, puberulent, with 4–9 flowers. Pedicel < 0.25 mm long or absent; bracts and bracteoles usually 3, 0.5–1.0 x 0.5–1.5 mm, green with cream margins, broad-obovate to orbicular, obtuse, mucronulate, margins ciliolate. Sepals 5, 1.5–1.7 x 1.0–1.2 mm, green with cream margins, elliptic to ovate, imbricate; apex subacute, sometimes slightly mucronulate; margin ciliolate. Corolla white; tube 1.0–1.2 mm long, c. 1.5 mm diam., inner surface glabrous, although usually hairy at the distal end where it grades into the corolla lobes; lobes 5, spreading to recurved, 1.2–2.0 mm long, narrow triangular, acute to subacute, densely hairy on inner surface. Filament fused to corolla tube along most of its length, free part 0.8–0.9 mm long, glabrous, translucent-white. Anthers brown, 0.6–0.9 x c.0.3 mm, with a short (0.1–0.2 mm), brown or cream-brown apical appendage. Ovary 0.6 x 0.5 mm, ovoid, green, glabrous; style 0.4–0.5 mm long, attenuate at base; stigma red. Glandular scales five, maroon, 0.3 mm long. Immature fruit c. 3 x c. 2 mm, pink-green, obovate to round, surface with raised membranous ridges.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily distinguished from the allied *L. fasciculatus* and *L. parviflorus* by its low sprawling subshrub growth habit, with stems prostrate to decumbent; branchlets that are glabrous or bifariously hairy; red-brown to pinkish-green leaves; and by its restriction to the Surville Serpentinite formation (Surville Cliffs, Te Pahi). Within its habitat *Leucopogon xerampelinus* is sympatric with *L. fasciculatus* with which it does not appear to form hybrids.

FLOWERING

September - November

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, White

FRUITING

October - April

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy drupes are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. Seed can be tricky and/or slow to germinate and cuttings usually fail to strike as well. However, plants can be easily grown and have no requirement for ultramafic substrates and soils to flourish. An attractive plant that does best in full sun in a free draining soil. When grown in these conditions the pinkish-red to red-brown coloration of the leaves is especially pronounced.

THREATS

Not Threatened. One of the most abundant of the Surville Cliff endemics. It is listed only because it is wholly endemic to the 120 ha exposure of serpentinite rock.

ETYMOLOGY

leucopogon: White beard (the petals are hairy)

xerampelinus: "dull red, with a strong mixture of brown" refers to the distinctive leaf coloration of the species.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2005. Description from de Lange et al. (2003).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Dawson, M.I. 2003: A new species of *Leucopogon* (Ericaceae) from the Surville Cliffs, North Cape, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 41: 13-21

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Leucopogon xerampelinus* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leucopogon-xerampelinus/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leucopogon-xerampelinus/>