

# Pomaderris hamiltonii

## COMMON NAME

pale-flowered kumarahou

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Rhamnaceae

## AUTHORITY

Pomaderris hamiltonii L.B.Moore

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RC

2004 | Sparse

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rare shrub to 4m tall with soft oval pointed leaves which have prominent veins on the underside and sprays of pale cream flowers. Leaves 5-6.5cm long by 2-3cm wide, tip pointed, with white star-shaped hairs underneath (lens needed). Fruit dry, small.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island only, Pouto Peninsula, on road to Tinopai, vicinity of Warkworth and Omaha, near Kaiaua and Miranda and on Great Barrier Island

## HABITAT

Coastal to lowland in open successional habitats and shrubland. Often found along roadside cuttings where the constant disturbance provides an ideal habitat.



Pomaderris hamiltonii plant in bud.  
Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.



Flowering panicle taken in September.  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub to small tree 3-6 m tall. branches upright rarely spreading, branches slender, bark dark brown, finely rugose. Seedling leaves dark green and glossy above, pale, and dull beneath, margins finely toothed. Leaves of seedlings, juveniles and adults petiolate, petioles pliant, dark green to brown green, somewhat rugose, at first finely covered in stellate hairs, trending to glabrous with age. Adult leaves 20 -80 x 10-40 mm, dark green above (not glossy), pale grey-green beneath, elliptic to elliptic-ovate; upper surface glabrous except for sparse, simple hairs present toward the sunken midrib; lower surface covered with fine, grey stellate indumentum, with larger simple and stellate veins on midrib and veins; margins entire, sometimes revolute; stipules 4-5 mm long, caducous. Inflorescence a terminal, open, many-branched corymb. Calyx reflexed, pale greenish; tube with scattered long, white, simple hairs until after anthesis. Petals cream; limb broad. Anthers oblong. Ovary with stellate hairs at apex, wholly immersed in calyx tube at anthesis, ½ immersed at fruiting. Fruit cocci opening by percula, occupying ½ of their inner faces.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Pomaderris kumeraho* A.Cunn. is superficially similar. However, it is more usually a small shrub (1-2 m tall) with smaller, broadly oval, elliptic to elliptic-ovate, grey-green rather than dark green, much hairier leaves. It is also distinguished by its yellow rather than cream-coloured flowers. In *P. hamiltonii* the calyx tube is sparingly covered by long simple hairs and the petals are cream, while in *P. kumeraho* the calyx tube is densely covered by long simple hairs and the petals are yellow. The two species often grow sympatrically. *Pomaderris kumeraho* has  $2n = 24$  chromosomes and produces seed sexually, *P. hamiltonii* is triploid ( $2n = 36$ ) and produces seed through apomixis.

## FLOWERING

(August-) October (-November)

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream

## FRUITING

(November-) December - January

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed, though this can be slow to germinate. Semi-hardwood cuttings strike with difficulty. Recent experimentation has found that cuttings strike well if placed in untreated saw dust. Once established this species often naturalises in suitable gardens. It is an attractive small tree which makes an excellent shelter belt or specimen tree. It is inclined to be short-lived and is prone to verticillium wilt.

## THREATS

Many populations occur on roadside cuttings where they are at constant risk from road maintenance crews, roadside spraying, and road widening. Some populations have been lost through natural succession

## ETYMOLOGY

**pomaderris:** Lid skin

**hamiltonii:** Named by Lucy Moore after Dr MW Hamilton, director general of the DSIR from 1953 to 1971.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pomaderris-hamiltonii/>