

Pomaderris rugosa

COMMON NAME

pomaderris

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1923)

FAMILY

Rhamnaceae

AUTHORITY

Pomaderris rugosa Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

POMRUG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

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

2004 | Range Restricted

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Shrub with long erect reddish fuzzy branches to 3m tall bearing narrow wrinkled narrow leaves inhabiting lowland areas of the upper North Island. Leaves 10-60mm long by 5-14mm wide, margins slightly down-curved, rusty fuzzy underneath. Flowers white, in many small clusters. Fruit dry, small.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Herekino, Waiti River (Between Silverdale and Orewa), Rotoroa and Ponui Islands. Coromandel Peninsula; Mayor (Tuhua) Island, west coast of Firth of Thames; Aotea and Kawhia Harbours).

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland. Commonly found in open scrub overlying clay and other impoverished soils and rocks (especially Rhyolite). Also in low scrub within estuaries. The Herekino records are from forestry tracks and are disputed as natural by some botanists. Similarly there is some suggestion that the Silverdale records were the result of deliberate plantings.



Motukarikitahi (November). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Manaia (Coromandel Peninsula). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, often widely spreading, rarely decumbent, much-branched shrub up to 3 m tall. Adult leaves 10-60 x 5-14 mm, dark green above, pale-grey, rarely rust coloured beneath, narrow-elliptic, narrow-oblong to oblong-lanceolate, obtuse, entire, margins flat in shade leaves, otherwise recurved, petiole to 5 mm; upper surface glabrous to glabrescent, sometimes with simple hairs at first, lower surface densely clothed in sessile and stalked stellate hairs, ferruginous and more conspicuous on veins; margins entire; stipules 1-2 mm long, deciduous. Juvenile leaves similar but usually larger and finely toothed. Inflorescence a rounded to sub-pyramidal, many-flowered panicle, terminal or subterminal, individual clusters compact; outer bracts pale, broadly elliptic, closely hairy; buds elongated, pale; pedicels to 3 mm. long. Flowers c.4 mm. diameter, calyx spreading, lobes 1.5 mm long, cream or pale yellow, fading to golden yellow after anthesis, deciduous; calyx-tube covered with fine close hairs, stellate except for a few simple ones. long; petals 0; style divided to c.1/2 length; petals absent. Anthers oblong. Ovary with dense stellate hairs at apex, wholly immersed in calyx tube at anthesis, $\frac{1}{2}$ immersed at fruiting. Capsule c. 3.5 mm. long, nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ immersed in calyx-tube, narrow, pale, losing sepals early; operculum $> \frac{1}{2}$ coccus-length; cocci opening by opercula occupying $\frac{1}{3}$ of their inner faces; seeds long, c.2 x 1 mm, dark brown, ant-dispersed.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the usually erect, much-branched growth habit, slender branches; stipules which are deciduous; glabrous adult leaves which have entire margins; and by the deciduous sepals. It is perhaps closest to *P. paniculosa* subsp. *novae-zelandiae* (L.B.Moore) N.G.Walsh which differs by its geographic isolation from *P. rugosa* (North Cape, Whangarei Heads), usually decumbent, prostrate, straggling growth habit and by the fruits which have persistent rather than deciduous sepals

FLOWERING

October - December (but sporadic throughout the year)

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

FRUITING

November - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown though seed can be hard to germinate. An excellent hardy shrub of a coastal property. Surprisingly frost resistant. Does best in poor, freely draining soils in full sun. Do not EVER give plant fertilise - this will kill it.

THREATS

Naturally uncommon but rather widespread, often sparsely distributed endemic. Most common on the Coromandel Peninsula but also abundant around the firth of Thames and on the Inner Gulf islands. It is widespread and tolerant of disturbance and often found in pine forests. There are few obvious threats.

ETYMOLOGY

pomaderris: Lid skin

rugosa: Wrinkled

ATTRIBUTION

Description based on herbarium specimens and both Allan (1961) and Webb et al. (2988).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. 4. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

MORE INFORMATION

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