

# Epacris sinclairii

## COMMON NAMES

Sinclair's tamingi

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy woody shrub with small hard leaves 7-15mm long by 2-5mm wide inhabiting upland Coromandel and Great Barrier Island. Leaves distinctly widest at middle, with three darker green lines on underside, with a small pale knob at tip. Flowers white, solitary in the base of leaves but many per twig.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout, erect, bushy, usually spreading shrub or small tree 1-8 x 1-3 m. Basal trunk stout, up to 100 mm dbh; bark grey-brown, flaking in long strips. Branches numerous, very leafy, virgate, spreading, minutely hairy when young, becoming glabrescent. Leaves ascending, patent to sub patent, close-set, firmly coriaceous, 7-15(-20) x 2-5(-8) mm, broadly lanceolate to ovate, rhomboidal-ovate to oblong-ovate; apex obtuse, often terminating in a distinctive cream-coloured or pale-green knob (never acuminate or mucronate); veins obscure on upper side, distinct on underside, bright green to bronze-green above, paler beneath. Flowers axillary, solitary, often aggregated toward branchlet tips. Peduncles 2-2.5 mm long. Corolla 5-8 mm diameter, white, lobes 5, spreading, broad-oblong, obtuse. Stamens 5, filaments, inserted on corolla tube, anthers red-brown to black, scarcely exerted. Capsules 1.5-2.5 mm long, subglobose, 5-lobed.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Rather similar to *Epacris pauciflora* A.Rich. (swamp tamingi) which differs mainly by its strongly erect, never spreading, sparingly branched "pitch fork" growth form, smaller over all stature (rarely exceeding 2 m in height), and smaller, dark green to red-green rhomboidal, acuminate to mucronate leaves. There are no major floral, fruit or seed differences. *E. pauciflora* is a species of gumland scrub and peat bogs, which does not grow in forest or on rhyolite rock outcrops. On Great Barrier Island and in the upper Kuaeranga Valley both species are locally sympatric.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island. Great Barrier Island where it is confined to the Central Mount Hobson Massif, and the Coromandel Peninsula, where it is only known from the Upper Kuaeranga Valley.

## HABITAT

A rhyolite endemic, preferring cloud Forest (where it can be epiphytic) and associated rock tors. On Great Barrier Island, due to past forest logging and associated land clearance plants have also colonised gumland scrub and other open, impoverished clay pans.



Perrys Hill, Great Barrier Island. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.



Table Mountain (Whakairi), Coromandel. Photographer: Cynthia Roberts, Date taken: 01/02/2010, Licence: CC BY-SA.

## THREATS

Threatened by the heavily reduced habitat the species now occupies. In the few locations where it is known it is regenerating freely.

## GENUS

Epacris

## FAMILY

Ericaceae

## AUTHORITY

Epacris sinclairii Hook f.

## SYNONYMS

Epacris pauciflora var. sinclairii (Hook.f.) Cheeseman

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

Epacris sinclairii is ecological and morphological distinct from E. pauciflora with which it is broadly sympatric on Great Barrier Island, and in the upper Kauaeranga Valley. Limited nrDNA ITS sequence data (unpublished, University of Auckland) indicate only a minimal difference between E. sinclairii and E. pauciflora (a single base pair change).

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

Mainly April - though occasional flowers may be seen in September-October

## FRUITING

Mainly May-July

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Minute seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

## ETYMOLOGY

**epacris**: From the Greek epi 'upon' and akros 'the top', referring these plants' habitat being on high ground

**sinclairii**: After Sinclair (c. 1796–1861). Colonial Secretary and naturalist.

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 26

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RC

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, RR, TL Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 15 October 2005. Description by P.J. de Lange.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/epacris-sinclairii/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026