

Ficus pumila

COMMON NAMES

creeping fig

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Evergreen, monoecious, scandent shrub becoming +/- erect at flowering. Young stems moderately to densely hairy, becoming glabrous. Leaves glabrous above, finely hairy below when young but becoming +/- glabrous, not lobed, entire, ovate to elliptic, cordate and often asymmetric at base, obtuse to acute, 1.5-3-(4) cm long on young scandent shoots, up to 12 cm long on the more erect flowering shoots; veins very prominently raised below; petiole < blade; stipules 2 per node, densely hairy, triangular, caducous. Inflorescence hairy, pyriform to subglobose, green, shortly pedunculate. Syncarp purplish pink, 2-8 cm long; achenes not seen. (Webb et al. 1988).

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Moderate to full sun. Vicinity of old or abandoned gardens, climbing up buildings, walls, telegraph poles.

GENUS

Ficus

FAMILY

Moraceae

AUTHORITY

Ficus pumila L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1981

ORIGIN

Japan, China

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Can't set seed but climbs and adheres to paintwork etc., resulting in some damage to walls not seen as a problem yet (Ewen Cameron 1996).



Adult foliage; semi-escaped along old stone wall; Taylor St, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 20/03/2013, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Adult foliage; semi-escaped along old stone wall; Taylor St, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 20/03/2013, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

ficus: The Latin name for fig tree, possibly derived from the Hebrew word fag

pumila: Small

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ficus-pumila/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026