

Leptecophylla juniperina subsp. juniperina

COMMON NAMES

prickly mingimingi, mingimingi

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy prickly shrub bearing hard narrow sharp leaves that are white underneath and pink, red, red-black or white fruit. Leaves variable in shape and in two forms: 6-15mm long mainly in the west of both islands, and 7-10mm long mainly in the east of both islands (both around 1mm wide).

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White



Coal Island. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/09/2020, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Dioecious, compact or tall shrubs 0.4-2.0 m tall. Bark firm, fibrous, weakly tessellated and furrowed, dark grey brown or dark brown. Stems grey, brown or grey brown; branchlets usually brown but occasionally yellow-brown or red-brown, rounded, scabrous or puberulent. Leaves spreading or occasionally reflexed, dark green, bronze-green or green, narrowly ovate, 4.0-18.0 × 1.0-2.1 mm, apex acute, tip pungent, 0.4-1.6 mm long, margin flat, glabrous or ciliolate toward apex; upper surface glabrous or puberulent at base, lower surface with intervenal papillae and 5 veins; petiole erect 0.6-1.7 mm long, appressed to stem, glabrous or puberulent on the upper surface. Flowers sickly sweet fragrant, solitary, terminal and axillary on erect or recurved pedicels 2-5 mm long in males, 1.3-3.0 mm in females; bracts ovate, 0.5-0.9 × 0.6-1.4 mm, obtuse, glabrous, margin usually ciliolate at the apex; bracteoles and sepals ovate or elliptic, obtuse, glabrous; bracteoles 8-24 per flower, imbricate, 1.2-2.4 × 1.1-2.0 mm; sepals 1.7-3.1 × 1.1-2.3 mm. Corolla tube white or cream, campanulate, exceeding the calyx, 1.5-2.8 mm long in males, 1.6-2.8 mm long in females, usually glabrous; lobes white or cream, shorter than tube 1.1-2.3 mm long, apex acute, glabrous or with short, sparse hairs. Anthers of male flowers 1.1-2.0 mm long, half-exserted; filaments 0.2-0.5 mm long, slightly exerted and visible between the lobes. Ovary ± spherical, 0.5-1.0 × 0.6-1.3 mm, glabrous, 4-6-celled; style straight, glabrous, attenuate from the ovary, 1.0-1.8 mm long in males, 0.9-1.5 mm long in females; stigma 0.1-0.2 mm tall; nectary 0.3-0.7 mm tall, of distinct scales or weakly adherent scales separating with pressure, margin toothed or rounded and occasionally with hairs. Drupe fleshy, white, pink, pinkish white, red or red-black, slightly flattened, spherical, 4-7 × 5-9 mm. Endocarp transversely elliptic, terete, 2.0-3.5 × 3.0-5.0 mm, longitudinally ridged, 5-6 of these distinctly more prominent; apex rounded to a broad flat or concave end; base rounded but narrower than apex, with a small hollow. Surface brown to dark brown, fading with age to light brown or fawn. Internally 4-6-celled, usually with 2-3 of these filled

SIMILAR TAXA

Superficially similar to *Leptecophylla robusta* (Hook.f.) C.M.Weiller from which it differs by its absence from the Chatham Islands; small stature; spreading leaves with long pungent apices, and which are veined 5 times. Both small-leaved and long-leaved forms are present in New Zealand, and are at places sympatric - they would repay further study. Note that *Leptecophylla juniperina* subsp. *oxycedrus* (Labill.) C.M.Weiller is not present in New Zealand.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand (North, South and Stewart Islands), also Australia (Tasmania only)

HABITAT

Coastal to montane, in scrub and forest.

GENUS

Leptecophylla

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Leptecophylla juniperina (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) C.M.Weiller subsp. *juniperina*

SYNONYMS

Epacris juniperina J.R.Forst. et G.Forst., *Cyathodes acerosa* (Gaertn.) Roem. et Schult., *Ardisia acerosa* Gaertn., *Cyathodes acerosa* (Gaertn.) Roem. et Schult. var. *acerosa*, *Cyathodes acerosa* var. *parvifolia* Hook.f., *Cyathodes articulata* Colenso, *Cyathodes juniperina* (J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.) Druce, *Styphelia juniperina* (G.Forst.) Pers., *Styphelia acerosa* F.Muell., *Leucopogon forsteri* A.Rich. (nom. illegit.)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FRUITING

Throughout the year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult has been successfully grown as transplants from the wild, and by cuttings. At all stages plants are prone to collapse and resent any disturbance of the roots.

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ETYMOLOGY

juniperina: Named after the genus Juniper, which is an old Latin name for juniper

NVS CODE

LEPJSJ

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT 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.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Weiller, C.M. 1999: *Leptecophylla*, a new genus for species formerly included in Cyathodes (Epacridaceae). *Muelleria* 12: 195-214.

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand – Gymnosperms & Dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet by P.J. de Lange (17 march 2005): Description modified from Weiller (1999). Endocarp description from Webb and Simpson (2001)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptecophylla-juniperina-subsp-juniperina/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026