

Leptecophylla juniperina subsp. juniperina

COMMON NAME

prickly mingimingi, mingimingi

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.)

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

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

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

LEPJSJ

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF 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).

DISTRIBUTION

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

HABITAT

Coastal to montane, in scrub and forest.



Small leaved variant. Days Bay, Eastbourne.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Small leaved variant. Days Bay, Eastbourne.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

FEATURES

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 exserted 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.

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

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.

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

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

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptecophylla-juniperina-subsp-juniperina/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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