**Pennantia baylisiana**

**COMMON NAME**
Three Kings Kaikomako

**SYNONYMS**
Plectomirtha baylisiana W.R.B.Oliv.

**FAMILY**
Pennantiaceae

**AUTHORITY**
Pennantia baylisiana (W.R.B.Oliv.) G.T.S.Baylis

**FLORA CATEGORY**
Vascular – Native

**ENDEMIC TAXON**
Yes

**ENDEMIC GENUS**
No

**ENDEMIC FAMILY**
No

**STRUCTURAL CLASS**
Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

**CHROMOSOME NUMBER**
2n = 50

**CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS**
2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, IE, OL

**PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES**
2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, OL, IE
2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION**
Rare multi-trunked small tree bearing very large broad glossy curled leaves inhabiting the three Kings Islands. Leaves 120-160mm long, widest towards tip. Flowers small, green, in clusters along branches. Fruit purple, 10mm long, containing a single seed.

**DISTRIBUTION**
Endemic to Great (Manawa Tawhi) Island, Three Kings Island group.

**HABITAT**
Coastal Forest.

**FEATURES**
Sturdy, multi-trunked tree 5-8 x 4 m tall. Bark greyish, tessellated. Young branches and branchlets lenticellate. Petiole 25 mm long. Leaves subcoriaceous, glabrescent, 120-160 x 70 -100 mm, oblong to obovate, in exposed conditions distinctly recurved, otherwise flat, margins entire, apex obtuse, rounded, or slightly emarginate; base cuneate to obtuse; lateral veins of underside subtended by axillary hairy, pocket-domatium. Inflorescence usually ramiflorous or cauliflorous, rarely terminal, 80-120 x 40-120 mm. Male flowers unknown. Female flowers 1.5 x 1.5 mm, petals 2.6 mm, greenish white, stamen filaments in bud kinked sideways, straightening at anthesis, 1.5 mm long; anther 1-1.4 mm, pollen usually malformed and sterile. Ovary barrel shaped, 2.8 x 2 mm; stigmatic ring 1.5-1.8 mm diam., crested into 3 triangular plates. Fruit ellipsoidal, 10 x 4.5 mm, flesh purple; stone 9 x 3.5 mm.
SIMILAR TAXA
Morphologically similar to the Norfolk Island Pennantia endlicheri Reissek from which it differs by multi-trunked
growth habit, the recurved leaves of exposed branchlets, and mainly ramiflorous or cauliflorous flowering habit.
DNA sequences further separate both species. Kaikomako (Pennantia corymbosa J.R. Forest et G.Forst.) differs
from both these species by its divaricating juvenile form, much smaller and distinctly toothed or lobed adult foliage.

FLOWERING
October-November

FLOWER COLOURS
Green, White

FRUITING
Fruiting occurs between January and April in cultivated material. Ripe fruit has been seen in the wild during
February and March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown from seed, when viable non hybrid seed is available. Though the only known tree is functionally
female, occasional viable fruit is now known to be produced both in the wild and in cultivation. However, if pure
seed is desired, plants should grown well away from kaikomako (P. corymbosa) otherwise hybrid seed will be
produced. This tree can also be grown from cuttings and basal portions of new stem stickers. Neither media is
easy to strike, and so until recently, this species was rarely seen in cultivation.

THREATS
Only one tree occurs in the wild. Initially P. baylisiana and indeed all other Three Kings endemic plants were at
serious risk from goats. These were successfully eradicated in 1946. Since then the tree has persisted despite
periodic storm and drought damage which may kill entire trunks. However, being female the tree was until recently
considered functionally extinct. Apparently viable fruits were first found in the wild in 1989, and these, along with
fruiting cutting grown plants in New Zealand provide one source of securing the species. However, until such time
as more trees occur in the wild, P. baylisiana remains seriously at risk of extinction through natural events such as
storms or senescence through old age.

ETYMOLOGY
pennantia: After Pennant, a zoologist

ATTRIBUTION
Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 October 2003. Description from Gardner & de Lange (2002) -
see also de Lange et al. (2010)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.
Gardner, R.O.; de Lange, P.J. 2002: Revision of Pennantia (Icacinaceae), a small isolated genus of Southern

CITATION
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MORE INFORMATION