

Pittosporum rigidum

SYNONYMS

Pittosporum rigidum Hook.f. var. *rigidum*, *Pittosporum rigidum* var. *majus* Allan, *Pittosporum crassicaule* Laing et Gourlay

FAMILY

Pittosporaceae

AUTHORITY

Pittosporum rigidum Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

PITRIG

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Hard shrub with thick wide-angled pale branches bearing often brownish small leathery leaves varying between smooth oval leaves and deeply-lobed leaves. Twigs with rusty or pale fuzz. Flowers dark red, inconspicuous. Fruit a capsule, surface uneven, splitting into two to show the 6-12 black seeds.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

SIMILAR TAXA

The characters used to distinguish *Pittosporum crassicaule* seem scarcely sufficient to separate this entity at species rank from the rather variable *P. rigidum*. Similarly the status of larger-leaved forms known as var. *majus* is unclear. *P. rigidum* would repay critical study using a selection of molecular markers.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

ETYMOLOGY

pittosporum: Pitch seed

rigidum: Stiff



Mt Manuoha, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Mt Manuoha, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pittosporum-rigidum/>