

Pomaderris apetala subsp. maritima

COMMON NAMES

tainui, New Zealand hazel

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, RF, SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Rare small tree bearing oval dark green wrinkled leaves that have raised veins on the underside inhabiting several sites on the west coast of the North Island. Many parts covered in brown star-shaped fuzz. Leaves 5-7cm long by 2-3 cm wide, upper surface with scattered small star-shaped hairs (lens needed).

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub to 4 m tall, all parts covered with persistent stellate tomentum. Bark dark brown to charcoal. Branches and branchlets numerous, erect, brittle. Petioles 10 mm long. Adult leaves dark green, grey green; lamina 50-70 x 20-30 mm (juvenile foliage usually larger), narrow elliptic to broad elliptic, rugose; upper surface stellate-hairy, lower surface with stellate tomentum; whitish between veins, veins and midrib brown; margins crenulate, denticulate or slightly revolute; apex obtuse to acute; stipules 4-10 mm long, subulate, caducous. Inflorescence, an open, much-branched, pyramidal panicle up to 200 mm long. Flowers mainly terminal, greenish yellow to amber. Calyx pale green, lobes 2 mm long, spreading or reflexed. Petals absent. Anthers oblong. Ovary surmounted at apex by a tuft of white, stellate hairs, immersed within calyx at flowering. Fruit 2 mm diam., globular, black.

SIMILAR TAXA

Pomaderris aspera is rather similar and often mistakenly sold as *P. apetala*. This naturalised species differs from *P. apetala* by the larger ovate or ovate-elliptic leaves with glabrous upper leaf surfaces and by the lower leaf surfaces notably less covered in indumentum such that the venation is clearly visible. The flowers of *P. aspera* are distinctly yellow rather than the greenish-yellow or amber colour of *P. apetala*.



Pomaderris apetala subsp. *maritima*.
Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Abaxial leaf surface, planted specimen, Bushy Park, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 10/02/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand, in a presumably natural state, this species was recorded from the western North Island at scattered sites between the Kawhia Harbour, Marokopa, Awakino, Mokau and Mohakatino, it is now only known from two sites in this area, Mokau and at the Mohakatino River mouth. Despite its natural scarcity this species has naturalised extremely well in the drier parts of the eastern South Island, on Stewart Island, and in the North Island around Wellington, Napier and in some locations around Hamilton and Cambridge. This species is known from Oligocene aged pollen fossils in the Te Kuiti Group limestones, and from Miocene aged leaf impressions from Southland. Present in Australia (Victoria) and Tasmania.

HABITAT

In its natural state this species appears to favour windshorn coastal forest and scrub. It has however, naturalised extensively in the drier parts of Canterbury within grey scrub and tussock grassland. It also naturalises well under pines and has been found naturalised in muttonbird scrub on Stewart Island.

THREATS

Habitat loss through coastal development, weed invasion, goat browse, and recruitment failure.

GENUS

Pomaderris

FAMILY

Rhamnaceae

AUTHORITY

Pomaderris apetala subsp. *maritima* N.G.Walsh et F.Coates

SYNONYMS

Pomaderris tainui Hector; *Pomaderris apetala*

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - February.

FRUITING

January - March, though this varies.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed or cuttings. Does best in a sunny, open, or exposed site and prefers nutrient poor soils. An excellent shelter belt plant

ETYMOLOGY

pomaderris: Lid skin

apetala: From the Latin prefix a- 'without' and petalum 'petal',

maritima: From the Latin mare 'sea', meaning growing on the sea shore

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, RF, SO

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, RF, SO

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, TO, RF

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Gardner, R. 1993. Tribes claims create poser *Pomaderris apetala* at Musick Point Auckland. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 48: 8-9.

Walsh, N. G.; and Coates, F. 1997: New taxa, new combinations and an infrageneric classification in *Pomaderris* (Rhamnaceae). *Muelleria* 10: 27–56.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 20 October 2003. Description adapted from Walsh & Coates (1997).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Pomaderris apetala* subsp. *maritima* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pomaderris-apetala-subsp-maritima/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026