

Pomaderris hamiltonii

COMMON NAMES

pale-flowered kumarahou

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT, RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Rare shrub to 4m tall with soft oval pointed leaves which have prominent veins on the underside and sprays of pale cream flowers. Leaves 5-6.5cm long by 2-3cm wide, tip pointed, with white star-shaped hairs underneath (lens needed). Fruit dry, small.

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub to small tree 3-6 m tall. branches upright rarely spreading, branches slender, bark dark brown, finely rugose. Seedling leaves dark green and glossy above, pale, and dull beneath, margins finely toothed. Leaves of seedlings, juveniles and adults petiolate, petioles pliant, dark green to brown green, somewhat rugose, at first finely covered in stellate hairs, trending to glabrous with age. Adult leaves 20 -80 x 10-40 mm, dark green above (not glossy), pale grey-green beneath, elliptic to elliptic-ovate; upper surface glabrous except for sparse, simple hairs present toward the sunken midrib; lower surface covered with fine, grey stellate indumentum, with larger simple and stellate veins on midrib and veins; margins entire, sometimes revolute; stipules 4-5 mm long, caducous. Inflorescence a terminal, open, many-branched corymb. Calyx reflexed, pale greenish; tube with scattered long, white, simple hairs until after anthesis. Petals cream; limb broad. Anthers oblong. Ovary with stellate hairs at apex, wholly immersed in calyx tube at anthesis, ½ immersed at fruiting. Fruit cocci opening by percula, occupying ½ of their inner faces.

SIMILAR TAXA

Pomaderris kumeraho A.Cunn. is superficially similar. However, it is more usually a small shrub (1-2 m tall) with smaller, broadly oval, elliptic to elliptic-ovate, grey-green rather than dark green, much hairier leaves. It is also distinguished by its yellow rather than cream-coloured flowers. In *P. hamiltonii* the calyx tube is sparingly covered by long simple hairs and the petals are cream, while in *P. kumeraho* the calyx tube is densely covered by long simple hairs and the petals are yellow. The two species often grow sympatrically. *Pomaderris kumeraho* has $2n = 24$ chromosomes and produces seed sexually, *P. hamiltonii* is triploid ($2n = 36$) and produces seed through apomixis.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island only, Pouto Peninsula, on road to Tinopai, vicinity of Warkworth and Omaha, near Kaiaua and Miranda, and on Great Barrier Island



Ex. cult Kaiaua Road, November 1992.
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Ex. cult Kaiaua Road, November 1992.
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HABITAT

Coastal to lowland in open successional habitats and shrubland. Often found along roadside cuttings where the constant disturbance provides an ideal habitat.

THREATS

Many populations occur on roadside cuttings where they are at constant risk from road maintenance crews, roadside spraying, and road widening. Some populations have been lost through natural succession

GENUS

Pomaderris

FAMILY

Rhamnaceae

AUTHORITY

Pomaderris hamiltonii L.B.Moore

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

(August-) October (-November)

FRUITING

(November-) December - January

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed, though can be slow to germinate. Semi-hardwood cuttings strike with difficulty. Recent experimentation has found that cuttings strike well if placed in untreated saw dust. Once established this species often naturalises in suitable gardens. It is an attractive small tree, which makes an excellent shelter belt or specimen tree. It is inclined to be short-lived and is prone to verticillium wilt.

ETYMOLOGY

pomaderris: Lid skin

hamiltonii: Named by Lucy Moore after Dr MW Hamilton, director general of the DSIR from 1953 to 1971.

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RC

2004 | Sparse

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NStr, PF, RR, TL 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.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pomaderris-hamiltonii/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026