

Pomaderris phyllicifolia subsp. phyllicifolia

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, EF, SO
[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Locally very common small shrub to 1.5 m tall with hairy twigs bearing masses of small narrow wrinkled leaves and clusters of white flowers. Leaves 10–30 mm long by 3–10 mm wide, margins inrolled, underside fuzzy. Fruit dry, small.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Compactly much-branched, spreading shrub up to 1.5 × 2.0 m. Young stems, buds, and leaves usually densely invested in long, spreading greyish-white to white hairs, rarely ± or completely glabrous. **Leaves** 10–30 × 4–20 mm, dark green above, white to grey-green below, narrow-oblong, narrow-ovate, oblanceolate, to cymbiform, deeply grooved at midrib, margins entire, initially flat but becoming recurved at maturity (though not so as to obscure lower surface); upper surface weakly rugulose, initially with dense covering of bristly simple hairs becoming glabrescent or glabrous; undersides except for midrib and secondary veins densely tomentose, midrib and secondary veins ± visible, hairs on midribs simple, those between stellate. **Inflorescences** in short axillary cymes aggregated, forming narrow terminal panicles. **Buds** grey-green to brown-grey, ovoid; pedicels 2.5 mm long. **Flowers** pale yellow, 4–5 mm diameter; calyx-tube covered in fine indumentum through which is mixed numerous long straight hairs; sepals c. 2 mm long, not persistent in fruit; petals mostly absent, rarely present as petaloid staminal filaments; stamens 2 mm long; style divided almost to base. **Capsule** 4 mm long, immersed up to 1/3 of its length in calyx-tube; operculum covering most of the inner coccus face. **Seeds** c. 2.2 × 1.6 mm, dark-brown, surface glossy.

SIMILAR TAXA

Pomaderris amoena Colenso (which has usually been known in New Zealand as *P. ericifolia* Hook. or *P. phyllicifolia* var. *ericifolia* (Hook.) L.B.Moore, though that taxon has a different Australian type and is not found here), has a different chromosome number ($2n = 36$) to *P. phyllicifolia* ($2n = 48$), and has leaves which are usually less than 10 mm long and recurved almost to the midrib.



In cultivation ex Albany. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Spirits Bay. Nov 2007. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island (historically known from Northland to northern Waikato. Still present in Te Pahi, near Te Kao and in scattered sites south to near Orewa). Australia (Victoria and southern New South Wales).

HABITAT

Mainly coastal, nutrient poor, open sites amongst manuka and sedges, clay banks and roadsides. This plant is a naturally short-lived, early coloniser of slips and disturbed areas.

THREATS

Use of herbicides along roadsides and goat browsing are the main causes of decline. Also, habitat loss through succession, causing shading as a canopy develops.

GENUS

Pomaderris

FAMILY

Rhamnaceae

AUTHORITY

Pomaderris phyllicifolia Lodd.

SYNONYMS

Pomaderris polifolia Reiss. et F.Muell., *P. phyllicifolia* var. *polifolia* (Reiss, et F.Muell.) L.B.Moore, *Pomaderris ericifolia* Hook.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

The Flora of New Zealand Vol. I records this species (as *P. phyllicifolia* var. *polifolia*) from David Island [sic] in the Noises group. That record is based on a specimen that was most probably collected from Piwhane / Spirits Bay, Northland, and accidentally mislabelled as to locality (P. J. de Lange pers. comm.). There are no species of *Pomaderris* present on the David Rocks.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October–November.

FRUITING

November–January.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from fresh seed, semi-hardwood cuttings and layered pieces but often difficult. Does best in nutrient poor, open, sunny situations without surrounding shrubs. An attractive shrub which should be more widely grown

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for May 2023](#) for the full story.

ETYMOLOGY

pomaderris: Lid skin

phyllicifolia: After phyllica, a South African shrub

NVS CODE

POMPHY

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF, SO

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: EF, SO

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Extirpated 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.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange PJ, Heenan PB, Norton DA, Rolfe JR, Sawyer JWD. 2010. Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch. 471 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description by P.J. de Lange subsequently published in de Lange et al (2010).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

28 May 2026