

Leucopogon parviflorus

COMMON NAMES

Chatham Island mingimingi

SYNONYMS

Cyathodes parviflora (Andrews) Allan, *Leucopogon lanceolatus* R.Br. (nom. illegit.), *Leucopogon richei* (Labill.) R.Br., *Styphelia parviflora* Andrews, *Styphelia richei* Labill.

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Leucopogon parviflorus (Andrews) Lindl.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

LEUPAR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 22

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, SO

2004 | Range Restricted

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy prickly shrub bearing hard narrow sharp leaves that are greenish underneath and short spikes of small white bell-shaped flowers and white fruit inhabiting the Chatham Islands. Leaves 10-15mm long by 4-6mm wide. Flowers hairy inside, bell-shaped, in clusters of spikes towards tip of twigs.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: Chatham Island. Present in Australia (southern Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania).

HABITAT

Strictly coastal. Usually on stable, sand dunes, dune slacks and sand flats, more rarely on sandy soils in pasture. Also rocky headlands, at the head of ravines and in low, windswept coastal scrub where it may be dominant. Prefers free-draining substrates and avoids permanently damp soils.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub 0.8-1.0(-3) × 1.0-1.8(-2.0) m. Trunk stout, often with several arising from ground level, bark firm, furrowed, ± tessellated, dark grey-black or brown. Branches and branchlets numerous, virgate, crowded, glabrous. Leaves numerous, ± weakly appressed to erecto-patent, crowded toward branch apices, glabrous, lanceolate, oblanceolate to elliptic, apex ± attenuate, rounded to subacute, with a small apical callus, base attenuate; 10-15(-20) × 4-6(-8) mm, flat or slightly convex with recurved, entire margins, veins faint, parallel, more evident when dried; lamina pale yellow-green to dark green above, paler beneath, with the foliage of young growth and exposed plants often adaxially glaucescent. Inflorescences axillary or terminal in upper leaf axils, spicate; spikes densely crowded, 15-20 mm long; flowers sweetly scented, densely packed, crowded,. Bracts and bracteoles broadly ovate, bracteoles weakly keeled, c.½ as long calyx. Sepals ovate, acute, 1.5-2.5 mm long, finely ciliolate. Corolla tube ± cylindrical, about as long as sepals, white or pale pink, corolla lobes 1.5-1.9 mm long, white or pale pink at anthesis, fading to white with age, deltoid to narrowly triangular, reflexed, inner surface densely invested in white hairs (bearded). Anthers versatile, half exerted, 1.5 mm long, with sterile tip 0.3-0.5 mm long. Ovary 4-5-locular, c.1 mm long, tapering into a short style; style not exerted. Fruit a fleshy, ovoid or spherical drupe 3 mm diameter, immature flesh at first greenish-yellow, then pale yellow, maturing white. Endocarp elliptic to broadly elliptic, 3-angled, rarely biconvex or 4-angled. 2.2-3.5 × 1.8-2.3 mm, indistinctly longitudinally ridged or veined, surface light orange-yellow, orange or orange-brown, internally with 2-4 cells with up to 3 filled.

SIMILAR TAXA

None on the Chatham Islands. However, this species has been confused in cultivation and occasionally on Chatham Island with *Pouteretere* (*Leptecophylla robusta*), which differs by its leaves which are dark green, purple-green or bronze-green above, pale green or cream below (rather than yellow-green to dark green above, paler beneath), and ovate or oblong (rather than lanceolate, oblanceolate to elliptic), flowers which are solitary rather than in spikes, and fruit which is larger (5-8 mm cf. 3 mm diameter) and red, pink or white. North Cape, North Island records of this species are referable to *L. xerampelinus*.

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

Throughout the year

LIFE CYCLE

Fleshy drupes are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. Can also be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings though these can be slow to strike. An attractive shrub that does well in exposed sandy soils and is very drought tolerant.

THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, Range-restricted species abundant along the sandy coastline of Chatham Island. It is not especially palatable however, at some sites it may be threatened by marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*)

ETYMOLOGY

leucopogon: White beard (the petals are hairy)

parviflorus: Small flowers

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 30 December 2010. Description prepared from Chatham Island herbarium specimens and live material.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leucopogon-parviflorus/>

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17 September 2024