



Pittosporum tenuifolium

Common Name(s):

Kohukohu, kohuhu, black matipo

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic and widespread throughout country.

Habitat:

A small tree of coastal to montane shrubland and forested habitats. Preferring successional habitats.

Features*:

Shrub or small gynodioecious tree up to 10 m tall (usually much less). Trunk 0.3-0.4(-0.6) m diam., stout, clad in dark grey-black or brown persistent bark. Branches numerous, erect then spreading. Branchlets and young leaves pubescent, hairs pale yellow or cream. Petioles short, somewhat fleshy. Leaves alternate, (10-)30(-70) x (5-)10(-20) mm, leathery, pale-green to dark green above, lighter below, oblong, oblong-ovate or elliptic-obovate, apex obtuse to acute, rarely acuminate, margins entire, often undulose. Flowers solitary or in axillary cymes, rather fragrant, especially at night. Pedicels stout, pale green, fleshy, bracts entire, lanceolate, caducous. Sepals narrowly ovate-oblong, subacute to obtuse, silky hairy. Petals 12 mm long, lanceolate, dark red, black (rarely yellow or white). Capsules 2-valved (rarely 3), subglobose, valves woody, black when mature, long persistent. Seeds immersed in sticky, red or yellow viscid pulp.

Flowering:

October - November (-December)

Fruiting:

January - March

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 10 January 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961).

References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1139



Caption: *Pittosporum tenuifolium* in flower Dunedin

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Quail Island

Photographer: John Barkla