



## *Androstoma empetrifolium*

### Common Name(s):

None known

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Auckland and Campbell islands, from Te Moehau and Mt Pirongia south.

### Habitat:

Coastal to alpine (montane to alpine in northern part of range otherwise extending to sea level). A species of open shrubland, tussock grassland, peat bogs and other poorly drained sites, as well as mixed alpine and subalpine herbfield. It is also frequently found on ridgelines on poorly draining, skeletal soils and on rock outcrops.

### Features\*:

Prostrate, semi-prostrate (decumbent) sometimes trailing, widely spreading woody shrubs up to 1.0 × 0.2 m. Stems spreading, brown, grey-brown or red-brown; branchlets red-brown, yellow-brown or brown, ribbed, pubescent. Leaves dark green, bronze-green, maroon adaxially, abaxially pubescent, alternate, evenly spaced, ± spreading, erect or reflexed, shedding along branchlets, and absent on main stems; petiolate, petiole erect, ± appressed, 0.5-0.9 mm long, glabrous; lamina linear, 2.3-4.8 × 0.6-1.1 mm, coriaceous, convex (rarely flat); apex obtuse surmounted by a minute callus; margin recurved, glabrous or ciliate; adaxially ± glossy, glabrous or finely pubescent; abaxially pubescent with hairs either confined to interveinal grooves or pubescent overall, striate, veins 3 parallel, conspicuous, abaxially strongly ribbed. Plants hermaphrodite. Inflorescences terminal, 1-3-flowered, terminating in a rudimentary bud. Flowers pendulous, subtended by a single bract and 2 prominently keeled bracteoles, not pedicellate above bracteoles so appearing spicate; pedicel 0.4-1 mm long; bract, bracteoles, and sepals ovate or oblong, obtuse, glabrous or rarely puberulent outside; bract 0.5-0.9 × 0.5 mm, margin ciliate; bracteoles non-imbricate, uniform in size, 0.8-1.5 × 0.7-1 mm, conspicuously striate particularly when dry, margin ciliate; sepals 1.3-1.9 × 0.8-1.1 mm, margin ciliate, bearing stomata on the adaxial surface (with a few present within hair-bearing clefts on the abaxial surface). Corolla tube equal or shorter than calyx, thin, campanulate, 1.1-1.6 mm long, inner portion of tube glabrous; lobes spreading, acute, equalling the tube, 1.0-1.5 mm long, sparsely puberulent to puberulent towards apices. Anthers emarginate, 0.3-0.5 mm long, apically attached by a short thin filament inserted just below sinus of corolla tube; the filaments exerted, 0.3-0.5 mm long. Ovary 3-4-locular, spherical to ovoid, glabrous, 0.5-1.0 × 0.5-0.8 mm wide; style straight, glabrous, 0.5-0.8 mm long; stigma 0.1 mm long exerted. Nectary annular deeply lobed, occasionally comprised of distinct scales, these 0.2-0.4 mm tall, glabrous. Fruit red (occasionally white or pink), 2.0-3.0 × 1.5-2 mm, glabrous. Endocarp 1.6-2.3 × 1.6-2.1 mm, brown, orange to orange-brown, broadly elliptic to ovoid, obscurely 3-angled, often longitudinally ridged, somewhat granular.

### Flowering:

November - January

### Fruiting:

January - August

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (19 November 2014). Description based on Weiller (1996), Quinn et al (2005), Webb & Simpson (2001) and observations made from fresh and dried specimens

### References and further reading:

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

Hooker, J.D. 1844: *The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage of H.M. Discovery Ships Erebus and Terror in the Years 1839-1843, under the command of Captain Sir James Clark Ross*. London, Reeve, Brothers. 208 p.

Quinn, C. J.; Brown, E. A.; Heslewood, M. M.; Crayn, D. M. 2005: Generic concepts in Styphelieae (Ericaceae): the *Cyathodes* group. *Australian Systematic Botany* 18: 439-454

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.

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Christchurch, Manuka Press.

Weiller, C.M. 1996: Reinstatement of the genus *Androstoma* Hook.f. (Epacridaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 34: 179-185.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1398](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1398)



**Caption:** Auckland Islands  
**Photographer:** Jane Gosden



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