



Pittosporum kirkii

Common Name(s):

Kirk's kohuhu, thick-leaved kohukohu

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Declining

Distribution:

Endemic to the northern half of the North Island, from Karikari Peninsula south of the northern reaches of the Whanganui River and west to Taranaki Mouna (Mt Egmont National Park).

Habitat:

Usually epiphytic, rarely terrestrial in coastal to montane forest.

Features*:

A small, gynodioecious, openly-branched shrub to 4 m tall with stout, purplish branches. Leaves are crowded towards the tips of the branch on 10 mm long stalks. The leaf blade is thick and fleshy, and broadens towards a rounded tip; leaves are 50–100 mm long by 20–30 mm wide. Flowers are either solitary or in clusters of up to four at the tips of branches, bright yellow and appear in November. Fruit are oval, woody capsules up to 40 mm long that split in half to reveal black seeds sitting in yellow sticky pulp, and appear in January.

Flowering:

October to December

Fruiting:

January to May

Threats:

Forest clearance, possum browse.

***Attribution:**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 30 August 2006. Description adapted from Cooper (1956).

References and further reading:

Cooper, R.C. 1956: The Australian and New Zealand species of *Pittosporum*. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 43: 87-188

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=140



Caption: Capsules - Waipoua Forest

Photographer: Kirsty Myron



Caption: Mt Taranaki

Photographer: Bill Clarkson