



Alepis flavida

Common Name(s):

Yellow mistletoe, pirita, piriraki

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Declining

Distribution:

North Island and South Island, New Zealand

Habitat:

Its host is most commonly mountain or black beech but it has been recorded on 13 species, all indigenous to New Zealand. In North Island the species is dispersed by bellbird (*Anthonis melanura*). It has never been common in the North Island.

Features*:

This species is a shrub that can grow up to 2 m across. It has leathery leaves that are 2-6cm long, narrow and dull green with deciduous tip. The leaves sit in pairs on opposite sides of the stem and are thick and fleshy with a matt surface. The margins of the leaves are red and are rough to touch. Veins are visible on the lower surface of the leaves. Its flowers are small with orange-yellow to yellow tepals that open right back. The fruit are small, shiny, translucent oval berries (approximately 4-5mm long) and ripen to yellow or gold although fruit have been recorded as yellow, green and orange on herbarium sheets at the Landcare herbarium in Lincoln (CHR).

Flowering:

December to February.

Fruiting:

Fruiting from January.

Threats:

Animal pests (including possums), fire, collectors, destruction of habitat and hosts, vegetation succession, fungal diseases.

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 August 2003.
Description based on Allan (1961).

References and further reading:

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

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=146



Caption: Craigieburn Forest Park, Canterbury

Photographer: Jane Gosden



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