



## *Sophora fulvida*

### Common Name(s):

kowhai

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic to New Zealand, occurring in Northland, Auckland and the Waikato. The southern limit occurs at Mt Karioi on the south side of Raglan Harbour.

### Habitat:

Open or disturbed sites, on base-rich volcanic rock, rubble and outcrops, amongst mixed podocarp-hardwood forest.

### Features\*:

A small kowhai tree to 10 m tall. It has many hairy, small, crowded, yellow-green or grey leaflets. Young branches are also hairy, and juvenile plants do not divaricate. Leaves on adults are up to 140 mm long and bear 60-90, roughly elliptical leaflets, each 1.8 to 7.5 by 1.2 to 4.5 mm. The larger juvenile leaves are almost devoid of hairs, also elliptical in shape and range in size from 2 to 3 by 4 to 6 mm. Flowers are yellow.

### Flowering:

Flowering occurs from October to November.

### Fruiting:

Fruiting in April–May.

### Threats:

Competition from weeds, especially on rocky outcrops; animal browse and loss of habitat.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 August 2003. Description based on Heenan et al. (2001).

### References and further reading:

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P. J.; Wilton, A. D. 2001: *Sophora* (Fabaceae) in New Zealand: taxonomy, distribution, and biogeography. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 39(1): 17-53.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=206](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=206)



**Caption:** South Piha  
**Photographer:** Peter de Lange



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