



## *Tupeia antarctica*

### **Common Name(s):**

taapia, piritā, white mistletoe, tupia

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

At Risk - Declining

### **Distribution:**

Endemic to the North and South Islands.

### **Habitat:**

Forest or scrub (often in regenerating vegetation), where it is parasitic on a wide range of hosts including tarata, karo, Coprosma species, putaputaweta, fivefinger, white maire and broom.

### **Features:**

A shrubby semi-parasite to 1 m diameter. Leaves are oppositely arranged, variable in shape, 10 to 70 by 10 to 40 mm, slightly fleshy and bright green. Stems are always rounded in cross section near the tips, have pale white to grey bark, and downy or hairy branchlets. Flowers are tiny, greenish-yellow. Fruit are fleshy, white to pink, 5 to 7 mm diameter.

### **Flowering:**

Flowers from October to December.

### **Fruiting:**

Fruit appear from December to March.

### **Threats:**

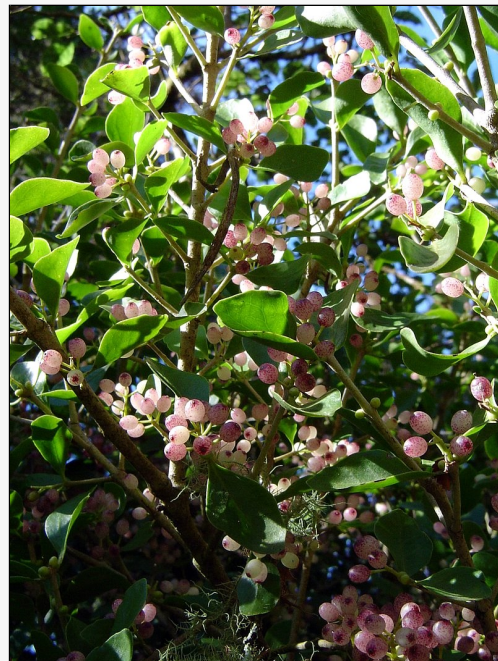
Possum browse is the primary threat to this species. Insect browse, habitat destruction, loss of pollinating and seed-dispersing native birds, collectors, vandalism and fungal disease also threaten this species.

### **References and further reading:**

Moorfield, J. C. (2005). *Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index*. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=210](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=210)



**Caption:** fruit on marbleleaf  
**Photographer:** Philip Lissaman



**Caption:** young plant on  
*Plagianthus regius*  
**Photographer:** Jesse Bythell