



Tecomanthe speciosa

Common Name(s):

tecomanthe, akapukaea

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Endemic. Three Kings Islands, Great (Manawa Tawhi) Island, Tasman stream. One plant only.

Habitat:

Growing up from a stony stream bed within mixed coastal forest dominated by Kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides* (A.Rich.) Joy Thomps.), and pigeonwood (*Hedycarya arborea* J.R.Forst, et G.Forst.).

Features*:

Robust leafy vine, producing numerous 4-angled stems 5-20 m long; these initially green to reddish green, maturing pale grey; rooting at nodes. Leaves dark green above, paler beneath, coriaceous, imparipinnate, 3-5-foliolate. Petiole pulvinate up to 60 x 40 mm; petiolules pulvinate 5-10 mm, terminal up to 30 mm. Lamina 50-180 x 30-100 mm, broad-elliptic, broad-obovate, to orbicular, entire, base oblique to cuneate, apex apiculate to retuse. Inflorescences corymbose, 5-50-flowered. Peduncle 20-30 mm, pedicels 10 mm. Calyx 25 x 10 mm, green, tubular, 3-5 lobed. Corolla greenish-white, maturing creamy-white or pale yellow; tube 20-50 x 15-20 mm, cylindric, corolla lobes 5, subacute, recurving with age. Stamens 4, 50-60 mm, fused near tube base. Style 40-60 mm, slender, stigma 2-lobed. Fruits woody, subcylindric capsules 150-200 x 35-40 mm. Seeds 10 x 25 mm, flattened, encircled by a papery, frayed wing.

Fructing:

Flowering:

Autumn to early winter

Year round. Fruit generally mature 3 or so months after flowering but the pods are retained on the vine for up to several years.

Threats:

Only one plant has been found in the wild. This plant was saved from certain extinction by the eradication of feral goats from Great Island (Three Kings) in 1946. Since then the vine has been threatened by the rapid regeneration of the surrounding forest. This has caused shading of the vines habitat the plant has suffered serious decline and had not been known to flower since 1946 although it has twice shown evidence of light flowering in the past 2 years.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange 23 October 2003. Description based on Allan (1961) supplemented with observations obtained from fresh material. This description subsequently published in de Lange et al. (2010)

References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Christchurch, Canterbury University Press.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=41



Caption: Auckland Botanic Gardens
Photographer: Jesse Bythell



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