



Astelia chathamica

Common Name(s):

Chatham Island astelia or kakaha, Moriori flax

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Recovering

Distribution:

Endemic to the Chatham Islands where it is known from Chatham Island and Pitt Island.

Habitat:

Kakaha occupies a range of moist sites. It can be found on forest floors, cliffs, rock bluffs, lakeshore scarps and stream margins, as well as in swamps. It was formerly widespread, but now tends to be restricted to sheltered, rocky, or protected spots in the bush or scrub where it is safe from grazing.

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

February - July

Threats:

Browsing and physical destruction by stock and feral animals have impacted severely on this species.

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 August 2003.

References and further reading:

Walls, G.; Baird, A.; de Lange, P.J.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2002: Threatened plants of the Chatham Islands. Wellington, Department of Conservation.

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* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=49



Caption: Flowers. Cultivated plant, Dunedin

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Otoi Creek, Chatham Islands

Photographer: John Sawyer