



Pittosporum pimeleoides subsp. *majus*

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island, Surville Cliffs and adjacent plateau.

Habitat:

An ultramafic endemic naturally confined to the 120 ha exposure of serpentinite at the North Cape/Surville Cliffs, Te Pahi. In that habitat it is very common in low scrub and at the bases of talus slopes on the cliffs proper. It is also present on the plateau, where it is less common, presumably because of the once frequent fires that swept that area.

Features*:

Much branched, gynodioecious, decumbent, prostrate, trailing and spreading gynodioecious shrub 0.1-0.6 m tall; confined to ultramafic substrates. Usually multi-trunked from the ground, branches and branchlets slender, wiry, pliant, spreading, arching and layering on contact with soil; coloured grey-brown; branchlets similar but at first densely clad in greyish-white to brown tomentum becoming glabrate with age. Leaves alternate, in distinct whorls (semi-verticillate). Petioles up to 5 mm long, hairy. Lamina 9-30 x 4.5-5(-13), pale green, red-green or dark green above, paler beneath, broadly elliptic, apex acuminate or obtuse, base attenuate, margins entire or finely crenulate, surfaces sparsely hairy with ciliolate margins when young, becoming glabrate, coriaceous. Flowers usually terminal, 4-12 fascicled. Pedicels 2-9 mm, filiform, puberulent, accrescent in fruit, subtended by a whorl of leaves and several 2-3 mm long, caducous, glabrous, ciliolate bud scales. Sepals 4.5-5 x 0.5-1 mm, linear, acuminate, glabrous. Petals 11-12 mm, yellow with a central or margin red stripe, rarely completely yellow or cream, linear, acuminate, fused in a tube to about half way, then spreading and reflexed. Stamens 2.5-6.5 mm, anthers 0.5-2 mm. Ovary 1-2 x 1-1.5 mm, villous, style 1.5-3.5 mm, Stigma capitate, 2-lobed or truncate. Capsules 2-valved, 6-12 x 4-6 mm, green at first brown when mature, ovoid, acuminate, coriaceous, initially covered in long grey hairs otherwise glabrate. Mucilage yellow to dark orange. Seeds 5-18, glossy black, of irregular shape.

Flowering:

(May-) July -
September

Fruiting:

Present throughout the
year

Threats:

Not Threatened. However it is listed as Range Restricted because of the naturally small area it occupies at North Cape.

*Attribution:

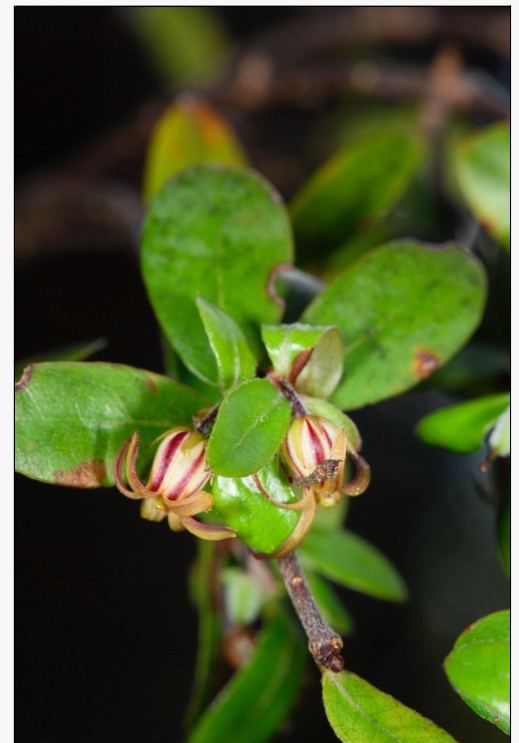
Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 30 August 2006.
Description adapted from Cooper (1956).

References and further reading:

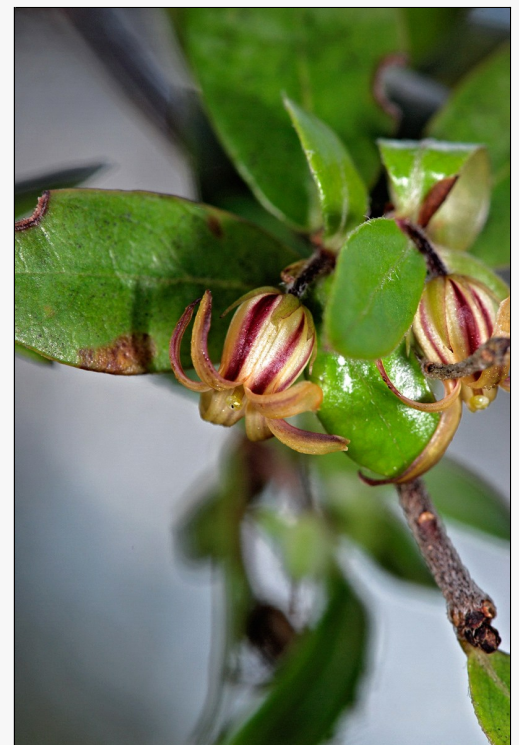
Cooper, R.C. 1956: The Australian and New Zealand species of *Pittosporum*. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 43: 87-188

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=622



Caption: In cultivation. Jul 2007.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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