



Xeronema callistemon f. bracteosa

Common Name(s):

Poor Knights Lily, Raupo-Taranga

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. Only known with certainty from the Poor Knights Islands, near Tutukaka, Northland. *Xeronema* belongs to a newly established family of one genus with two species, the Xeronemataceae.

Habitat:

Rhyolite sea cliffs and rock outcrops. Occasionally in forest on rubble or as an epiphyte on pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*). These latter occurrences probably stem from fallen plants captured in trees or resprouting on the forest floor.

Features*:

Forming huge colonies 1-4 m across. Leaves green to yellow-green, arising from thick rhizomes, and forming flattened fans, 60-150 x 3-5 cm. Dead leaves long persistent, ultimately detached from the frayed base to form a fibrous mass. Inflorescences on green, thick, leafy stems (peduncle) up to 1 m. Racemes 10-60 cm long, aligned vertically on upper side of peduncle. Flowers crowded, numerous. Flower stalks (pedicels) 1-15 mm long, subtended by an initially green translucent leafy bract overtopping the buds until flowering burst. Flowers red, tepals 10-15 mm, outer 3 mm wide, inner 1.5 mm. Stamen filaments twice length of tepals, anthers 4 mm long, pollen tangerine-orange. Ovary 4 x 2 mm, oblong-3-angled, covered with copious nectar. Capsule 9-11 mm. Seeds ovate, 1.6 x 1 mm, black.

Flowering:

September to December, peaking in October.

Fruiting:

November to January.

Threats:

None. However in a recent study de Lange & Cameron (1999: *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37(3):435-437) found that *f. bracteosa* was scarce in the wild. It would seem to only be a minor genetically fixed variant, which is why de Lange & Cameron (1999) reduced its rank to that of forma.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 October 2004. Description based on Moore & Edgar (1970) supplemented by observations obtained from fresh specimens and herbarium material (see also de Lange & Cameron 1999).

References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Cameron, E.K. 1999: The vascular flora of Aorangi Island, Poor Knights Islands, northern New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37: 433-468.

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. II. Wellington, Government Printer.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=705



Caption: Ex. Aorangi Island,
Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft



Caption: Ex. Tatua Peak, Aorangi
Island
Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft