



Xeronema callistemon f. callistemon

Common Name(s):

Poor Knights Lily, Raupo-Taranga

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. Only known from the Poor Knights Islands near Tutukaka, and from Hen (Taranga) Island, near Whangarei. *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 a pale green translucent leafy bract, which is obviously shorter than the buds. 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. The species is listed only because it is endemic to two very small island archipelago.

*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.

Oliver, W.R.B. 1926: New Zealand angiosperms. *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute* 56: 1-5.

Oliver, H. 1968. Note on the growing of *Xeronema callistemon*. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin* 35: 22

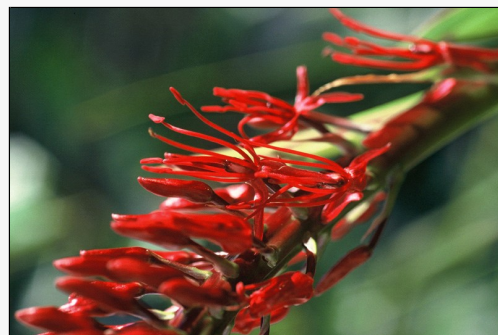
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=706



Caption: Tatua Peak

Photographer: Peter de Lange



Caption: Tatua Peak, Aorangi Island

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft