



Pittosporum rangitahua

Common Name(s):

Raoul Island kohuhu

Current Threat Status (2015):

At Risk - Recovering

Distribution:

Endemic. Kermadec Islands group, Raoul Island only

Features*:

Densely branched small tree 3–8 m tall. Primary branches erect, with secondary and tertiary branches erect to ascending. Branchlets are at first densely white-tomentose, becoming grey-brown and sparsely tomentose with aging; bark smooth, grey-brown and glabrous. Leaf scars consistently have three vascular bundles. Leaves are crowded towards the ends of bare branches

Fruiting:

Present throughout year

Threats:

Known only from Raoul Island where this species occurs in scattered and often small populations. Following goat and rat eradication from the islands (declared free of major mammalian pests in 2006) this species has started to expand its range. Currently there is an estimated adult population of 1000 individuals, which is actively increasing. For this reason the species, listed as *Pittosporum* aff. *crassifolium* (AK 253259; Raoul Island) had been assessed as 'At Risk / Recovering' by de Lange et al. (2012). Cameron & Sykes (2015) have upheld this assessment. However, should *Phytophthora* reach the Kermadecs it is likely that this species would then be seriously at risk of extinction.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (19 October 2015).
Description modified from Cameron & Sykes (2015).

References and further reading:

Cameron, E.K.; Sykes, W.R. 2015: *Pittosporum rangitahua* sp.nov. from Raoul Island, Kermadec islands, northern New Zealand. *Auckland Museum Bulletin* 20: 253-262.

de Lange, P.J.; Rolfe, J.R.; Champion, P.D.; Courtney, S.P.; Heenan, P.B.; Barkla, J.W.; Cameron, E.K.; Norton, D.A.; Hitchmough, R.A. 2013: Conservation status of New Zealand vascular plants, 2012. *New Zealand threat classification series* 3. Department of Conservation, Wellington. 70 pp.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=7668



Caption: Raoul Island. Jun 2001.

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft



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