

Pomaderris phyllicifolia

RHAMNACEAE

Status

Nationally Endangered

Description

A many-branched shrub to 1.5 m tall. Young stems and buds are usually covered in dense white hairs. Leaves are oblong, 10–25 mm long, and folded or rolled over on the edges with simple hairs on the upper surface and star-like hairs on the under-surface. Flowers are 4–5 mm diameter, grouped in clusters, cream to pale yellow and lack petals. Fruit is a 4 mm long capsule. Flowering occurs from October to November and fruiting from November to January.

Similar species

Pomaderris aff. *phyllicifolia*, which has a different chromosome number ($2n=36$) to *P. phyllicifolia* ($2n=48$), has leaves that are usually less than 10 mm long and recurved almost to the midrib.

Habitat

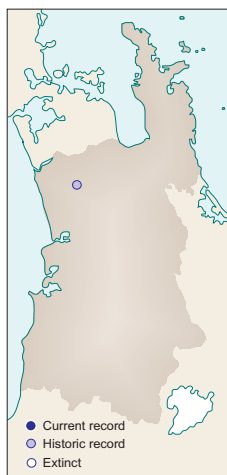
Mainly coastal, nutrient poor, open sites amongst manuka and sedges, clay banks and roadsides. This plant is a naturally short-lived, early coloniser of slips and disturbed areas.

Distribution

Indigenous. Common in Victoria and southern New South Wales, Australia. In New Zealand scarce, historically known from Northland to the Auckland Region (the records from David Island in the Noisies group have since proved to be erroneous) and the Waikato. Never common anywhere, this species is known in the Waikato, from the Opuatia Wetlands.

Threats

Use of herbicides along roadsides and goat browsing are the main causes of decline. Also, habitat loss through succession, causing shading as a canopy develops.



Comment

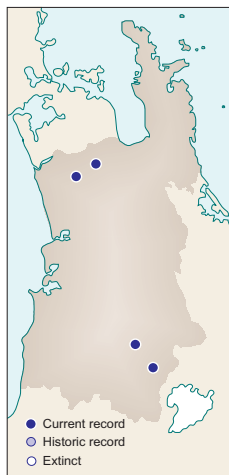
This species was called *Pomaderris polifolia* in Collins & de Lange (1998), that name being a later synonym of *P. phyllicifolia*. Another common New Zealand *Pomaderris*, *P. aff. phyllicifolia*, has also been called *P. phyllicifolia*, *P. phyllicifolia* var. *ericafolia* and *P. ericafolia*. However, none of these names apply to the New Zealand plant which, for the time being, is apparently unnamed.



Pomaderris phyllicifolia.
Photo: G.M. Crowcroft.

Prasophyllum aff. *patens*

swamp leek orchid



ORCHIDACEAE

Status

Nationally Vulnerable

Description

An attractive, often floating orchid of peatbogs and their associated slow-flowing streams, possessing strongly scented flowers (that smell like freesia). It has a single, rolled, leek-like leaf and a single, prominent spike to 0.9 m tall, carrying 3–20 flowers. Flower colour varies from yellow with a black or white labellum to greenish red with a white labellum. The labellum is conspicuous and has a wavy margin. Flowering occurs from December to February.

Similar species

Prasophyllum colensoi generally does not grow as tall, has green or reddish flowers and is a grassland inhabitant.

Habitat

Slow-flowing or still water in acidic peat bogs, often amongst sedges (*Baumea* spp. and *Schoenus* spp.). Plants often grow on 'vegetation islands' with their roots barely touching the peat substrate.



Prasophyllum aff. *patens*.

Photos: E.A. Scanlen.



Distribution

Endemic to the northern half of the North Island and Chatham Island. In the Waikato, it is known from several wetlands in the Waikato and Maniapoto Areas.

Threats

Over-collection by orchid enthusiasts, stock browse and pugging, pig rooting and wetland drainage are the main threats.

Pseudopanax laetus

ARALIACEAE

Status

Gradual Decline

Description

A large shrub up to 5 m tall. Leaves are five or seven-fingered with purplish-red mid-ribs and leaf stalks. Leaflets (fingers) are 150–300 mm long, roughly cigar-shaped, thick and leathery; paler green underneath with obvious mid-ribs and lateral veins on both sides. Leaflet edges are coarsely toothed on the upper half of the leaf and the tip is rounded. The dark purple flowers are borne in dense umbrella-shaped clusters.

Similar species

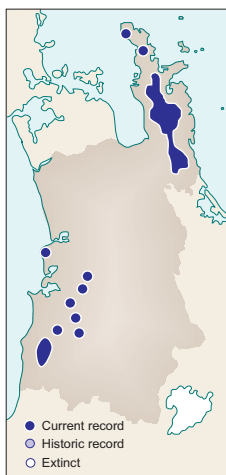
Fivefinger (*P. arboreus*) looks similar but has smaller, more heavily serrated, leaves which lack the purplish-red mid-ribs and leaf stalks.

Habitat

Lowland forest.

Distribution

Endemic to the northern part of the North Island from Coromandel to Gisborne and Taranaki. In the Waikato locally scattered from Te Moechau south to the Kauaeranga Valley, and in the west from Raglan to Awakino, including the adjacent ranges.



Threats

This species is highly palatable to browsing animals. Subsequently it is usually only found in cliff refugia or other similar sites inaccessible to browsing animals. Possums seriously damage plants and have been responsible for its near extinction in some parts of the Waikato.

Pseudopanax laetus.

Photo: J.C. Smith-Dodsworth.

Pterostylis micromega

swamp greenhood

ORCHIDACEAE

Status

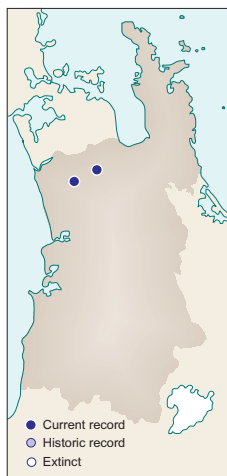
Nationally Critical

Description

A greenhood orchid to 300 mm tall with a relatively large flower and small leaves that rarely form a rosette and are usually scattered up the stem. Leaves are pale green, up to 50 mm long, and have undulating, sometimes toothed margins. Flowers are 25–40 mm long, pale green with white patches and have a broad hood. Flowering occurs from November to February and fruiting from January to March.

Similar species

None



Habitat

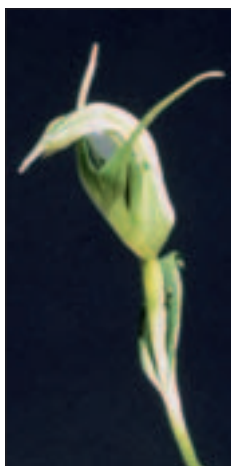
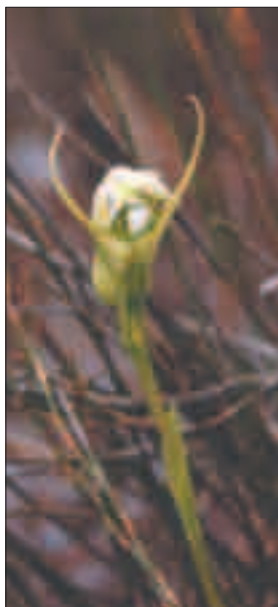
Bogs and swamps, with generally mid acidic soils.

Distribution

Endemic to New Zealand. Formerly known in wetlands from Kaitaia to Nelson and the Chatham Islands. Now scarce throughout this range with most recent records coming from the Central Volcanic Plateau, near Wanganui and by Lake Wairarapa. In the Waikato known from just two locations in lower Waikato wetlands.

Threats

Drainage of habitat; habitat invasion by weeds; effects of stock and feral animals, especially pigs.



Pterostylis micromega.

Photos: (left) N. Singers; (right) G.M. Crowcroft.

Pterostylis paludosa

ORCHIDACEAE

Status

Serious Decline

Description

A short-horned greenhood orchid up to 180 mm tall. Grows in dense colonies. This plant has an upright rosette of 2–4, pale yellowish-green narrow, grass-like leaves, 25–60 mm long × 7–11 mm wide. Sterile plants are 40–80 mm tall. Flowering plants are 80–180 mm tall with 3 or 4 leaves. Flowers are white and pale green, erect, 18–20 × 5–6 mm with lateral sepals (the horns) only protruding a short way above the rest of the flower. Flowering is from October to January.

Similar species

Two other wetland greenhoods, *P. micromega* and an as yet unnamed one allied to *P. graminea*, have been confused with *P. paludosa* in the past. When flowering the differences between *P. paludosa* and *P. micromega* are obvious, but sterile specimens can be hard to separate. Generally the basal leaves of *P. micromega* are broader and have undulating, sometimes toothed margins. The basal leaves of the unnamed orchid are much smaller, finer, and grass-like. Flowering specimens of *P. aff. graminea* are also very distinctive, as the flowers are conspicuously striped white and green, and much smaller.

Habitat

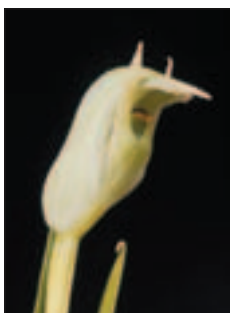
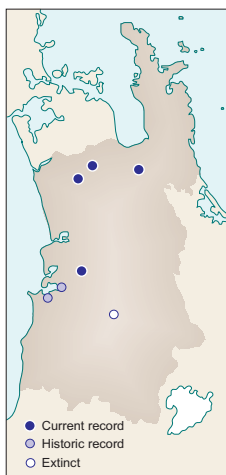
Peat bogs and heathlands, usually in well-lit sites amongst mosses and sedges.

Distribution

Endemic to the central North Island from Huntly basin to Waiouru, and northwestern South Island. Known from a handful of locations on the Hauraki Plains, Mt Pirongia and around Kawhia in Waikato.

Threats

Habitat loss through wetland drainage, and natural succession to taller vegetation. This species requires frequent disturbance to maintain itself. It is especially abundant following peat fires. The species is also at risk from plant collectors.



Pterostylis paludosa.

Photos: I. St George.

Raukaua edgerleyi

raukawa

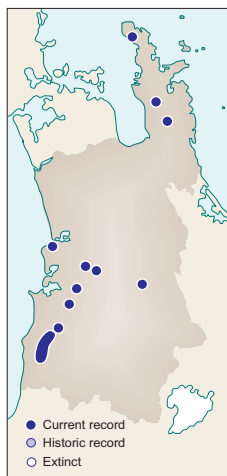
ARALIACEAE

Status

Gradual Decline

Description

A large shrub or small tree up to 10 m tall. Juvenile leaf shape is highly variable: having 3–5 fingers which are irregularly lobed or coarsely toothed. Adult leaves are either solitary or three-fingered, without serrate edges; lanceolate-, shiny, sometimes with a rounded leaf tip. Often there are small hooks present on the midrib of the leaves. The green flowers are borne in umbrella-like structures. A distinctive feature of this species is the strong, somewhat lemony aromatic scent of the crushed leaves.



Habitat

Preferring cloud forest. This species has been found in lowland to upper montane forest habitats, often in a mid to late-successional phase.

Similar species

None

Distribution

Endemic to North, South and Stewart Islands. Locally scattered throughout the conservancy.

Threats

This plant is intolerant of animal browse.

Raukaua edgerleyi. Photo: G. Warren.