

Wright for accepting voucher specimens of the affected plants for the AK herbarium (AK 175072/86).

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TWO NEW SITES FOR POMADERRIS POLIFOLIA

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During March 1986, while on a school trip to view some of the kauri gum pits that still abound in the peaty scrublands at Mangawhai, I idly turned over a branch of a shrub that was growing on the edge of one of the pits. I had presumed that the plant was Pomaderris ericifolia, but was surprised to note that the leaves were larger, the margins less recurved, and the tomentose undersurface more clearly visible than expected.

On taking a sample to Lucy Moore she confirmed what I suspected -- that it was Pomaderris polifolia. P. polifolia has so far been recorded from very few localities -- Spirits Bay, Te Kao, David I. in the Hauraki Gulf, and Silverdale.

I was instructed to return in the spring to get a flowering sample. This I did on 23 October. The flowers are similar to P. ericifolia, though maybe they are a little larger. The difference in size is more noticeable with the buds -- the buds of P. polifolia being larger, paler cream spheres than those of P. ericifolia. When viewed from above the foliage has a softer, brighter green appearance, and the shrub may grow to c. 1.5 metres in height, compared with c. 1 metre for P. ericifolia. The leaves are larger and more "open" on seedlings and on plants growing in shaded situations.

A few days later (Labour Weekend), while having a "cuppa" on the side of the road in the Waipoua pine forest, I was surprised to come across P. polifolia once more. This second sighting in the space of a few days leads me to wonder whether perhaps P. polifolia is not so much uncommon as unnoticed.

Specimens from both areas will be lodged with the Auckland Institute and Museum.

I have followed Audrey Eagle in treating these two as species, rather than as varieties of P. phyllicifolia as in "Flora of New Zealand, Vol.1, Allan.

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