

9. Northern & southern rātā

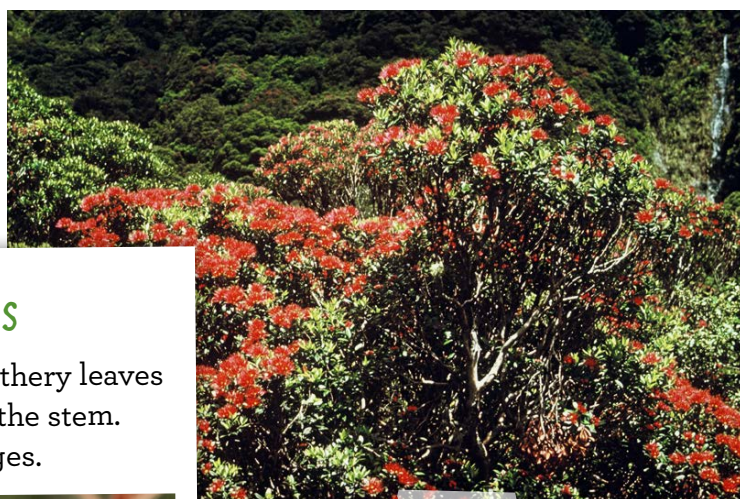
Metrosideros robusta & *Metrosideros umbellata*

Northern rātā: a flowering tree common in the North Island. Northern rātā often seeds and grows in branches of other trees then sends its roots down and takes over the host tree. Trunk often hollow.

Southern rātā: a flowering tree common throughout most of NZ except Northland and the east coast of South Island. Southern rātā starts life on the ground and does not have a host tree.

Flowers

Flowers appear in spring – summer (Nov-Jan) and are red/pink and sometimes orange.



Leaves

Oval, dark green, leathery leaves that alternate on the stem. Smooth edges.



Seeds

Brown seed capsules contain hundreds of seeds

For more information about rātā, see doc.govt.nz and projectcrimson.org.nz

Size

Northern rātā: Up to 25-40 metres tall; 2.5 metres wide trunk
Southern rātā: up to 15 metres tall; 1 metre wide trunk

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