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Plant of the month: Coast Pomaderris *Pomaderris paniculosa* ssp. *paralia*



Coast Pomaderris *Pomaderris paniculosa* ssp. *paralia* is a compact shrub growing 1-2 metres high and the same wide. Branchlets are softly hairy, giving a pale or rusty appearance. It is the coastal subspecies of *Pomaderris paniculosa*, distinguished by the large leaves, 1.5 to 5 cm long and 1-2.5 cm wide, with a smooth, shiny upper surface and a paler, densely hairy lower surface, the hairs usually extending around the margin of the leaf. Cream or greenish flowers without petals occur in drooping panicles from the leaf axils and terminally, in October and November. Locally common along the exposed coast of the southern states; at Venus Bay it occurs in Coastal Dune Scrub and Coast Banksia Woodland.

Coast Pomaderris can form a hedge or low screen in the garden, with attractive reddish-brown new growth. It responds well to pruning and can grow in full sun or under established trees. It requires well drained soil in cultivation. Propagation is from seed or cuttings.



Pomaderris belongs in the Rhamnaceae or Buckthorn family.

The genus name comes from the Greek *poma*, a lid and *derris*,

skin, referring to the membranous covering of the capsule. The species name *paniculosa* means 'flowers in the form of a panicle' (cluster) and the subspecies *paralia* comes from the Greek *para*, meaning near.