

Pearl fruit (*Margyricarpus pinnatus*) is seeking a home in the Sumner Beach dunes

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My wife, Charlene Herring, and I first spotted the plant a few years ago. We make frequent passes through the dunes to control emerging yellow lupin seedlings. Unfamiliar with taxonomic identification, the plant just seemed to be the common asparagus fern house/garden plant. I popped a photo onto iNaturalist. It suggested pearl fruit (*Margyricarpus pinnatus*), which several iNaturalist users have supported (Figure 1).

The Allan Herbarium at Lincoln now has a specimen we supplied. The plant is still scarce



Figure 1. Pearl fruit (*Margyricarpus pinnatus*), Sumner Beach dunes, January 2021.

on the dunes, but we find it every year now. We discovered a young colony recently that might have been seeded by a plant we removed previously.

While there is some concern voiced by iNaturalist users about the presence of the plant in New Zealand, pearl fruit isn't included in the DoC Weedlist. The NZ Plant Conservation Network notes its distribution as: Naturalised. New Zealand: South Island (Southland (Fortrose)). Native of South America.