

# Cardamine latior

## COMMON NAME

Auckland Islands bitter cress

## SYNONYMS

None. First described in December 2008

## FAMILY

Brassicaceae

## AUTHORITY

Cardamine latior Heenan

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

CARLAT

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, IE, OL

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, OL

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: Auckland Islands (Auckland Island, Adams Island).

## HABITAT

Recorded growing among boulders and fellfield, particularly at higher elevations on mountain-top screes.



Photographer: Peter B. Heenan, Date taken: 21/02/2013, Licence: CC BY.



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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb, caespitose, with many leaves forming a small, compact rosette. **Leaves** pinnate, up to 40–50 mm long, glabrous, green, ± coriaceous; petiole 8–12 mm long, 1.7–1.8 mm wide, winged and sheathing at base. **Leaflets** 11–15, in pairs and usually overlapping in distal part of leaf, alternate and distant in lower part of leaf, reniform, orbicular to broadly elliptic, hydathodes prominent on margin and in axil of petiolule, margin entire, base cordate, ± truncate to obtuse, apex obtuse to rounded; terminal leaflet lamina 3.5–4.7 × 3.5–4.1 mm, with 2 conspicuous lateral lobes; lateral leaflet lamina 1.5–2.5 × 0.7–2.2 mm; petiolules up to 0.5 mm long, often ± absent. **Cauline leaves** occasionally present subtending only the lower 1–2 flowers; similar to rosette leaves, but with fewer leaflets and smaller in all parts. **Inflorescence** usually up to 50 mm long, occasionally up to 145 mm in sheltered sites, 1.2–1.6 mm diameter at base, glabrous, compact and not elongating after flowering, fastigiate, racemose, flowers usually crowded in upper half. **Pedicels** 5–10–(17) mm long, 0.8–1.2 mm diameter, usually erect. **Sepals** 2.0–2.4 × 0.7–1.2 mm, oblong to elliptic, glabrous, margin white and membranous, apex obtuse to rounded, base truncate. **Petals** 3.2–4.0 × 1.2–1.5 mm, white, pale pink or purple, limb obovate; apex obtuse to rounded; base cuneate to attenuate, tapering to an indistinct claw. **Filaments** 6, 1.6–2.4 mm long; anthers 0.4–0.5 mm long. **Ovary** 1.5–2.6 mm long, 0.5–0.6 mm diameter, terete, glabrous; stigma 0.3–0.5 mm diameter. **Siliques** 12–23 × 1.7–2.2 mm, crowded, erect, beak 0.7–1.4 mm long; replum 0.9–1.1 mm wide; septum with a prominent central vein. **Seeds** 1.4–2.1 mm long, 1.1–1.5 mm wide, 0.4–0.5 mm thick, rounded or oblong, red-brown.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the Campbell Island endemic *Cardamine subcarnosa* by shorter leaves with more leaflets, leaflets that overlap, more prominent leaf margin and axil hydathodes, short inflorescences, distinctly erect and broader siliques, and the septum with a distinct central vein.

## FLOWERING

October–December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## FRUITING

October–February

## LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are dispersed by ballistic projection, water and attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Not known from cultivation. Probably easy but likely to dislike high temperatures and humidity.

## THREATS

Rated as Naturally Uncommon because this species is naturally confined to a restricted geographic area of <1000 km<sup>2</sup>.

## ETYMOLOGY

**cardamine**: From the Greek name kárdamon, referring to an Indian spice

## WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

## ATTRIBUTION

Description from: Heenan (2008)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan, P.B. 2008. *Cardamine latior* (Brassicaceae), a new species endemic to the subantarctic Auckland Islands, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46(4): 559–566. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00288250809509785>.  
Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cardamine-latior/>