

# Anemonastrum tenuicaule

## COMMON NAME

New Zealand anemone

## SYNONYMS

Ranunculus tenuicaulis Cheeseman; Anemone tenuicaulis (Cheeseman) Parkin et Sledge; Anemonidium tenuicaule (Cheeseman) Christenh. et Byng

## FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

## AUTHORITY

Anemonastrum tenuicaule (Cheeseman) de Lange et Mosyakin

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

ANETEN

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand, North and South Islands from the Tararua ranges south.

## HABITAT

Upper montane to subalpine habitats (c.900-1300 m a.s.l.) where it grows in herbfield and short to tall tussock grassland. usually in damp sites, flushes or seepages.

## FEATURES

Perennial, rhizomatous herb (50-)150-500 mm tall. Rhizomes erect or creeping. Basal Petioles 20-150 mm long somewhat channeled, glabrescent, sparsely covered with appressed bristle-like hairs. Leaves 1-4(-6), 10-30 x 10-20 mm, 3-foliolate light green above, paler beneath, somewhat fleshy, leaflets cut to about half of length, into 3 entire or trifid segments, these sessile or shortly petiolate, sparsely bristly hairy above, cuneate at base, apex acute; subfloral leaves trifid, cuneate. Flowers solitary, nodding, 10-150 mm diameter. Peduncle 10-100-150 mm long, sparsely covered in appressed bristly hairs. Perianth segments 5-7, pink to red-brown, glabrous (upper surface minutely papillate). Achenes borne in erect heads, glabrous.



Flagstaff Hill, Dunedin (December).  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Kyeburn. Photographer: John Barkla

## SIMILAR TAXA

None

## FLOWERING

November - January

## FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Red/Pink

## FRUITING

December - May

## LIFE CYCLE

Hooked achenes are dispersed by attaching to fur, feathers and clothing (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

## THREATS

*Anemonastrum tenuicaule* is a biologically sparse species. In the northern part of its range it is extremely uncommon. However from about North Otago south it is more common, and in places it can be locally abundant. Within its range it is mostly secure, occurring on public conservation land. It is possible that some lowland populations are threatened by competition from weeds.

## ETYMOLOGY

**anemonastrum:** The meaning of the genus was not clearly specified by the naming author Josef Holub 1930-1999 (Holub 1973). The root is derived from 'Anemone' - from the Greek *ánemos* 'wind'. However, 'astrum' has multiple meanings. In one case it could mean 'a star' (Latin 'astrum' (from Ancient Greek 'astron', a more poetic variant of 'aster')) hence 'star anemone'. In another meaning 'astrum' could refer to the close resemblance of the genus to Anemone or that it is a 'little Anemone'. In this regard 'astrum' is a noun-suffix (genitive -astri) in the second declension, expressing an incomplete resemblance to, some likeness to, an inferiority, or even usage in a diminutive sense. Probably the second explanation is preferable, because Holub (1973: 158) commented "Therefore a new name, Anemonastrum is proposed here for the genus under consideration, which is very closely related from the etymological point of view to Anemone" Opinion from: Prof. Sergei L. Mosyakin

**tenuicaule:** Thin-stemmed

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 12 February 2004. Description adapted from Allan (1961) and Webb et al. (1988). See also Mosyakin & de Lange (2018).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Wellington, Government Printer.

Holub, J. 1973: New names in Phanerogamae 2. *Folia Geobotanica & Phytotaxonomica (Praha)* 8(2): 155-179

Mosyakin, S.L.; de Lange, P.J. 2018: *Anemonastrum tenuicaule* and *A. antucense* (Ranunculaceae), new combinations for a New Zealand endemic species and its South American relative. *PhytoKeys* 99: 107-124.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11(4): 285-309

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ 1988. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Anemonastrum tenuicaule* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/anemonastrum-tenuicaule/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/anemonastrum-tenuicaule/>