

# Bulbinella gibbsii var. gibbsii

## COMMON NAMES

Gibbs's Māori onion, Gibbs's lily, Gibbs's onion

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subdioecious, diminutive, summer green, fleshy, lily up to 300 mm tall. **Leaves** up to 30 mm wide, strap-like, reddish green to dark green, fleshy. **Peduncle** mostly shorter than raceme. **Raceme** mostly conical (rarely cylindrical), the axis visible between flowers. **Pedicels** 10–20 mm long, swollen below flower, elongating slightly after anthesis. **Bracts** long-acuminate, notably longer than pedicel in flowering and fruiting material. **Flowers** 10–14 mm diameter, dark yellow, numerous, densely crowded; tepals patent, becoming erect and hardening as fruit matures. **Stamens** 6, < tepals; anthers mostly well filled with pollen. **Ovary** not stipitate. **Capsules** broad-ovoid. **Seeds** dark and narrowly winged.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Bulbinella rossii* (Hook.f.) Cheeseman which is a much more robust species (up to 1 m tall) endemic to the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku. *Bulbinella rossii* has consistently cylindrical racemes. The axis is very stout and more or less obscured by the densely crowded, distinctly dioecious flowers. The stigma is prominently capitate. *Bulbinella gibbsii* var. *balanifera* L.B.Moore is a larger plant than var. *gibbsii* with longer peduncles and pedicels. The pedicels greatly exceed the subtending bracts. The ovary and capsules are barrel-shaped rather than broadly ovoid, with bases that only gradually narrow and which are scarcely stipitate. *Bulbinella gibbsii* var. *balanifera* is found in the North Island and South Island but not on Stewart Island/Rakiura.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Stewart Island/Rakiura.

## HABITAT

Coastal to alpine (mainly alpine) in damp ground, in cushion bogs and seepages, sometimes fringing ponds and small ephemeral pools.

## THREATS

No apparent threats. Listed because it occupies a small geographic area.

## GENUS

Bulbinella



Mt Rakeahua, Rakiura National Park, 680 m asl. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 02/01/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mount Rakeahua, Rakiura National Park, 680 m asl. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 02/01/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## FAMILY

Asphodelaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Bulbinella gibbsii* Cockayne var. *gibbsii*

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

January–February

## FRUITING

February–March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild. Has been cultivated with limited success in the more southerly parts of the country.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY

**bulbinella**: Little bulb

**gibbsii**: Named in honor of Frederick G Gibbs (1866-1953)

## NVS CODE

BULGVG

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Moore LB, Edgar E. 1970. Flora of New Zealand, Volume II. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Monocotyledones except Gramineae. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 354 p.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Moore and Edgar (1970).

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## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/bulbinella-gibbsii-var-gibbsii/>

