

Cardamine dolichostyla

COMMON NAMES

bittercress

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb, a single rosette or with off-sets (short lateral branches). Leaves up to 130 mm long, deeply lobed; moderately hairy to hairless, somewhat glossy.

Inflorescence is a raceme, sometimes branched, each raceme 6–12-flowered; flowering stems to 400 mm or more tall. Mature flowers often turned horizontally rather than upright, flowering plants being relatively conspicuous in dark forest.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

SIMILAR TAXA

Cardamine forsteri, which often grows with *C. dolichostyla*. The latter has larger flowers, which are often turned sideways, and the flowers have a longer style; leaves are somewhat more glossy than in *C. forsteri*.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (south from South Auckland and west of the axial ranges), South Island (northern parts to Canterbury).

HABITAT

Lowland to montane moist forest, sometimes disturbed sites.

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Soil, litter, bases of tree roots.

GENUS

Cardamine

FAMILY

Brassicaceae

AUTHORITY

Cardamine dolichostyla Heenan

SYNONYMS

Once included in *C. debilis*, under the name *Cardamine* 'Long Style'.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No



On base of rimu in Ngaurukehu Scientific Reserve, Hautapu R, near Taihape.

Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 17/11/1998, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Boulder Hill, western Hutt hills. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 04/11/2005, Licence: CC BY.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

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

NVS CODE

CARDLC

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NR, Sp Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the

[“Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025”](#) Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026