

Cardamine dolichostyla

COMMON NAME

bittercress

SYNONYMS

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

FAMILY

Brassicaceae

AUTHORITY

Cardamine dolichostyla Heenan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

BRIEF 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.

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.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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

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*.

FLOWER COLOURS

White



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



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SUBSTRATE

Soil, litter, bases of tree roots.

ETYMOLOGY

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

MORE INFORMATION

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