

Cardamine latior

COMMON NAMES

Auckland Islands bitter cress

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

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.

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.



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THREATS

Rated as Naturally Uncommon because this species is naturally confined to a restricted geographic area of <1000 km².

GENUS

Cardamine

FAMILY

Brassicaceae

AUTHORITY

Cardamine latior Heenan

SYNONYMS

None. First described in December 2008

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October–December

FRUITING

October–February

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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.

ETYMOLOGY

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

NVS CODE

CARLAT

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

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

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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>.

ATTRIBUTION

Description from: Heenan (2008)

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

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