

Cardamine subcarnosa

COMMON NAMES

Campbell Island bittercress

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White, Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb, caespitose, forming an open rosette. Leaves pinnate, up to 100(–140) mm long, green, subcoriaceous, lamina and petiole margins sparsely ciliate, glabrate, or occasionally glabrous; petiole 20–60 mm long, 1.5–6.0 mm wide, winged and sheathing at base. Leaflets 5–7, usually in pairs although proximal leaflets occ. alternate, usually not overlapping except occasionally the uppermost pair and the terminal, hydathodes inconspicuous to prominent, margin entire, apex obtuse to rounded, base cuneate, obtuse or \pm truncate; terminal leaflet lamina 5–25 \times 5–20 mm, orbicular to broadly elliptic, with inconspicuous lateral lobes or shallowly toothed; lateral leaflet lamina 3–22 \times 2.5–12 mm, broadly elliptic, elliptic to obovate, shallowly toothed or entire; petiolules up to 10 mm long, although sometimes \pm absent. Cauline leaves subtending pedicels, although sometimes absent on upper pedicels; lower leaves similar to rosette leaves, but with fewer and narrower leaflets, becoming smaller in all parts; upper leaves 1.7–6.5 \times 0.3–0.9 mm, increasingly linear, simple. Inflorescence 50–150(–300) mm long, 1.2–1.6 mm diam. at base, glabrous, usually elongating after flowering, upright to ascending, racemose, flowers distant in upper half. Pedicels 2.0–12 mm long, 0.5–0.8 mm diam, erecto-patent to spreading. Sepals 1.3–2.4 \times 0.5–1.2 mm, oblong to elliptic, glabrous, green or purple, margin white and membranous, apex obtuse to rounded, base truncate. Petals 2.2–4.7 \times 0.6–1.3 mm, white, pink or purple, usually purple veined, limb obovate; apex obtuse to rounded; base cuneate to attenuate, tapering to a \pm indistinct claw, claw up to 0.5 mm long. Filaments 6, 1.5–2.5 mm long; anthers 0.3–0.4 mm long. Ovary 3.2–3.5 mm long, 0.5–0.7 mm diam., terete, glabrous; stigma 0.3–0.5 mm diam. Siliques 9–20 \times 0.9–1.3 mm, not crowded, erecto-patent to spreading, beak 1.0–1.4 mm long; replum 0.3–0.4 mm wide; septum with a weak central vein or vein absent. Seeds 0.8–1.4 mm long, 0.5–0.9 mm wide, 0.3–0.5 mm thick, rounded or oblong, red-brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the Auckland Islands endemic *Cardamine latior* by longer leaves with fewer leaflets that do not overlap, less prominent leaf margin and axil hydathodes, longer inflorescences, sub-erect to spreading, narrower rather than erect and broader siliques, and by the septum which lacks a well defined central vein.



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Campbell Island. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 06/01/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Campbell Island

HABITAT

Inhabiting damp places on scree, peat, grassland, and rock crevices. Said to be most common in herbfields, tall Marsippospermum rushlands, and fellfields of the summit tundra zone

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 subcarnosa (Hook.f.) Allan

SYNONYMS

Cardamine hirsuta var. subcarnosa Hook.f.; Cardamine glacialis var. subcarnosa (Hook.f.) Schulz

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November – December

FRUITING

December - 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 suffer in high temperatures and humidity.

ETYMOLOGY

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

NVS CODE

CARSBC

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: 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). New Zealand Journal of Botany. 46(4): 559–566

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 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

ATTRIBUTION

Description from Heenan (2008)

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

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