

Colobanthus apetalus

COMMON NAMES

colobanthus

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

GENUS

Colobanthus

FAMILY

Caryophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Colobanthus apetalus (Labill.) Druce

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Winged seeds are dispersed by water and possibly also wind and ballistic projection (Thorsen et al., 2009).

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

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

ETYMOLOGY

colobanthus: Mutilated flower with no petals

apetalus: From the Latin prefix a- 'without' and petalum 'petal',

NVS CODE

COLAPE

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)



Stocking stream, Mt Cook. February.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Atiwhakatu Stream, Tararua Forest Park.
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 02/02/2008, Licence: CC BY.

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NStr, RR, 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.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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* 11: 285-309.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/colobanthus-apetalus/>

PDF DATE

08 June 2026