

Cotula discolor

COMMON NAMES

cotula

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Mat-forming, rooting at nodes; conspicuously hairy leaves and stems; capitula on long slender stems; yellow tubular florets with outer ring of very small ligulate florets

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DISTRIBUTION

First discovered wild in New Zealand at Opunake in 2002 and subsequently collected in 2011 from Wanganui.

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Any well-drained soils, gravel, sand

GENUS

Cotula

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Cotula discolor (DC.) J.C. Manning & Mucina

SYNONYMS

Incorrectly known as *C. lineariloba* (a different species) in many web sites and publications.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

2002

ORIGIN

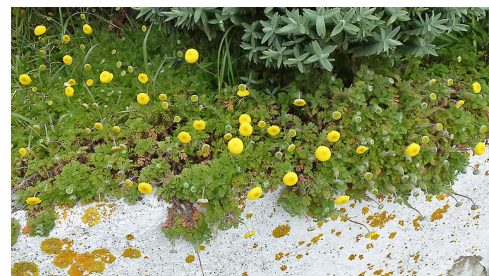
South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

ornamental



Inflorescence. Whanganui. Nov 2011.
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Whanganui. Nov 2011. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Reproduces from rooted pieces and layering.

Cotula discolor is commonly sold by the nursery trade as *C. lineariloba* and the wild occurrences presumably stem from garden escapes or garden discards. It is not yet known if this species sets viable seed in New Zealand.

ETYMOLOGY

cotula: Little cup, from the Greek *kotule* (small cup), referring to the cupped area at the base of the leaves

discolor: Two colours or of different colours; from the latin *dis* and *color*; different colours of the leaf surfaces

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

J.C. Manning; L. Mucina; A.R.Magee (2013) *Cotula sericea* resolved as the correct name for the mysterious *C. fallax* (Asteraceae: Anthemidae), with new synonyms and the new combination *Cotula discolor*. South African Journal of Botany 88: 237–242.

ATTRIBUTION

J.C. Manning; L. Mucina; A.R.Magee (2013) *Cotula sericea* resolved as the correct name for the mysterious *C. fallax* (Asteraceae: Anthemidae), with new synonyms and the new combination *Cotula discolor*. South African Journal of Botany 88: 237–242.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cotula-dicolor/>

PDF DATE

08 June 2026