

Goodenia heenanii

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DPT, RR

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rhizomatous, mat-forming herb, forming dense patches up to 700 mm diam., or diffuse patches when trailing through other vegetation. Stems 1-2 mm diam. Petiole 3-7(-17) x 0.5-1 mm, distinct from leaf. Leaves dark green, glabrous, alternate, appressed to ground, lamina 3-7 x 3-5 mm, rotund, orbicular, leathery, entire, apex obtuse, base obtuse. Flowers single, arising in leaf axils. Pedicel 3-9 mm, glabrous, green to red-green, erect or spreading; bracts 1.5-2 x 0.7-0.9 mm, lanceolate, falcate, green, erect. Sepals 1-1.4 x 0.7-0.9 mm, narrow-triangular, distal part flushed red, apex subacute. Corolla 7-8 x 8-9 mm, 5 petals fused in proximal part, inner surface white, outer pale red. Petals 3-4 x 1.5-2 mm, lanceolate, falcate. Ovary 1.4-1.6 mm, green, glabrous. Style purple-red, stigma glabrous, orange brown. Stamens 3, orange-brown. Fruit 2-3 x 2-3 mm, ovoid, green. Seeds 1.5 x 1 mm, cream-white, compressed.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the allied *Selliera microphylla* and *Goodenia radicans* by the distinctive, small, rounded to completely orbicular leaves. However, plants with small, rounded to completely orbicular leaves are widespread in parts of the North Island range outside the area in which *G. heenanii* is considered endemic. They need further study.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (westerly from about Whanganui south to Paekakariki).

HABITAT

In dune fields where it grows in seasonally damp swales (depressions), occasionally found along the margins of slow flowing tidal streams.

THREATS

This species is threatened throughout its range by the spread of faster growing and taller weed species which are rapidly modifying the damp, dune swale and estuarine habitats this species favours.

GENUS

Goodenia

FAMILY

Goodeniaceae



At Waikawa dunes. Nov 2004. Photographer: Barbara Mitcalfe, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Hokio Beach, sand flat. Jan 1996. Photographer: Peter B. Heenan, Licence: CC BY-NC.

AUTHORITY

Goodenia heenanii K.A.Sheph

SYNONYMS

Selliera rotundifolia Heenan

TAXONOMIC NOTES

The genus *Selliera* was merged into *Goodenia* by Shepherd et al. (2020).

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December - February

FRUITING

January - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from the division of whole plants. An excellent ground cover for sunny, well drained or water logged soils.

NVS CODE

GOOHEE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 16

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Declining

2004 | Gradual Decline

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Duguid, F. 1985. *Selliera radicans* with regular corolla. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 42: 84

Heenan, P. B. 1997: *Selliera rotundifolia* (Goodeniaceae), a new, round-leaved, species from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35(2): 133-138.

Shepherd, K.A.; Lepschi, B.J.; Johnson, E.A.; Gardner, A.G.; Sessa, E.B.; Jabaily, R.S. 2020: The concluding chapter: recircumscription of *Goodenia* (Goodeniaceae) to include four allied genera with an updated infrageneric classification. *PhytoKeys* 152: 27–104.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 18 June 2006. Description adapted from Heenan (1997).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/goodenia-heenanii/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026