

Leptinella atrata subsp. luteola

COMMON NAMES

yellow scree button daisy

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

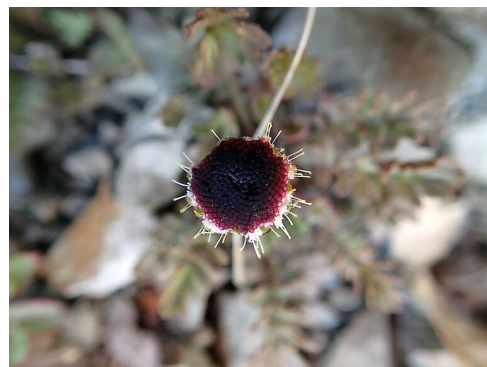
Fleshy, monoecious, perennial herb producing 1 or more summer green leaf tufts amongst mobile scree. Rhizomes ascending, at or close to rock surface when young, becoming deeply buried with age, up to 10 mm long, thick, very fleshy, pale or pinkish-red, sparsely short-hairy, glabrate; branches often in clusters of up to 4 diverging from a flowering node and the nodes immediately behind, most of these dying in the first season, leaves usually crowded around rhizome apex, sometimes up to 25 mm apart. Roots numerous, fleshy, very long, extensively branching, thick up to 2 mm diameter. Leaves 2-pinnatifid, 20–80 x 5–13 mm; blade 15–60 mm long, obovate, coriaceous and fleshy, grey-green tinged with red, especially on the primary and secondary axes, sparsely pilose hairy, midrib not raised on ventral surface; pinnae 5–10 pairs, cut to rhachis, distal ones close-set, broadly elliptic and divided, reducing to distant oblong simple proximal pinnae; secondary pinnae 0–5 per pinna, equally on distal and proximal sides, cut to midrib of pinna, triangular to oblong flat or scarcely upturned, with rounded apices, flat or upturned, occasionally with 1–2 small lobes on either side. Peduncles scarcely longer than leaves, 30–120 mm, stout, fleshy, pilose hairy with 4–10 evenly spaced bracts; simple, oblong or with 1–3 lobes on either side. Capitula 5–13 mm diameter, surface paraboloid (steeply convex); involucre flat; involucral bracts unequally 2–3-seriate, overtopped by mature florets, grey-green tinged pink or red, more or less pilose hairy, outer bracts exceeding florets, thick, simple, oblong, margin entire, gradually changing to thinner, simple obovate inner involucral bracts whose margins are finely scarious, receptacle conical; pistillate florets 100–240 in several rows, 3.25–3.75 mm long, straight, yellow; corolla 5 times as long as wide, teeth reddish brown conspicuous, equal and diverging; staminate florets equal in number. Stigmas clearly exerted, not retracting after anthesis. Cypselae 1.8–2.8 x 0.8–1 mm, slightly compressed, pale brown or dark brown, deeply wrinkled when mature

SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *L. atrata* (Hook.f.) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb subsp. *atrata* by the yellow rather than dark red almost black flowers, leaves whose distal pinnae are not overlapping and whose secondary pinnae are flat rather than upturned. Differs from *L. dendyi* (Cockayne) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb by the smaller capitula (up to 12 cf 20 mm), dark red to almost black rather than yellow with red-tipped florets, paraboloid rather than flat receptacle, and monoecious rather than gynodioecious flowers.



Black Birch Range. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 26/01/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Flower. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 15/01/2014, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island from Eastern Marlborough to North Canterbury

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine (> 1000 m a.s.l.) in open, mobile, sparsely vegetated screes.

THREATS

Apparently a very localised, narrow-range endemic known from only a few locations. No evidence of decline has been reported.

GENUS

Leptinella

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Leptinella atrata subsp. luteola (D.G.Lloyd) D.G.Lloyd et C.Webb

SYNONYMS

Cotula atrata subsp. luteola D.G.Lloyd

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - January

FRUITING

January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult - should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

leptinella: From the Greek word leptos (meaning slender, thin or delicate), referring to the ovary

atrata: From the Greek ater 'black'

luteola: From the Latin luteo 'yellow', meaning 'pale yellow'

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 52

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Lloyd, D.G. 1972: A revision of the New Zealand, Subantarctic, and South American species of *Cotula*, section *Leptinella*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 10: 277-372.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 31 August 2006. Description from Lloyd (1972) - as *Cotula atrata* subsp. *luteola*

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Leptinella atrata* subsp. *luteola* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-atrata-subsp-luteola/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-atrata-subsp-luteola/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026