

# Leptinella conjuncta

## SYNONYMS

None (first described in 2009)

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Leptinella conjuncta* Heenan

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Herbs - Composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 104

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: Sp

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South I. Central Otago (the catchments of the Clutha, Nevis, and Manuherikia rivers), and southern Canterbury (Mackenzie Basin).

## HABITAT

Inner montane basins and river terraces. Known from dry, semi-arid and rain-shadow areas where it predominantly grows on terraces, terrace edges, and old river channels of gravels and alluvium.

## FEATURES

Creeping perennial herb forming small open patches. Branches in clusters of up to 4 radiating from a flowering node. Leaves 1-pinnatifid, pectinate, 6–20 × 2–5mm, blade elliptic or obovate, coriaceous, moderately to densely villous, dark green to brown-green; pinnae in 5–12 pairs, 1.0–2.5 × 0.3–0.5mm, oblong, obovate or linear, apex obtuse to subacute, margin entire, terminal pinna and distal 1–3 pairs of pinnae usually joined together. Peduncles longer than leaves, 20–100mm long, 0.4–0.6mm diameter, sparsely to densely villous. Monoecious, capitula up to 5mm diameter. Involucre with phyllaries 12–24 in 2 or more subequal rows, oblong, dark green or grey-green, with 1–3 dark veins sometimes obscured by sparse to dense hairs, margin wide, brown, scarious. Pistillate florets 12–24, in 1 row; 2.0–2.7mm long, white, cream or translucent, often with 1–2 dark longitudinal stripes along corolla and ovary; corolla 1.0–1.1 × 0.5–0.6mm, lobes 4–5, each 0.1–0.2mm long; ovary 1.0–1.2 × 0.4–0.5mm, style c. 1.2mm long, stigmatic arms 0.1–0.15mm long. Staminate florets 20–50, in 3–5-rows, 2.5–2.9mm long, white, cream or translucent, often with 1–2 dark stripes along corolla and ovary, corolla with scattered sessile glandular trichomes; corolla tube 1.2–1.4 × 0.3–0.35mm, partially translucent to white; inflated corolla 0.7–0.9 × 0.9–1.0mm, translucent; corolla lobes 4–5, 0.5–0.6mm long, white, triangular, patent; ovary 0.7–0.8 × 0.25–0.35mm; stigma c. 0.2 mm diameter; filaments 1.0–1.2mm long, partially translucent to white; anthers 0.7–0.8mm long, yellow. Achenes up to 2.1 × 0.7mm, ± compressed, biconvex, golden-brown, scarcely to deeply wrinkled.



Fiddlers Flat, Otago. Photographer: John Barkla



Fiddlers Flat, Otago. Photographer: John Barkla

### **SIMILAR TAXA**

*Leptinella conjuncta* is most similar to the *L. pectinata* complex but is distinguished from members of that complex by leaves that are densely hairy, 6–10mm long, and with the terminal pinna and 1–3 lateral pinnae conspicuously joined near their base; a peduncle that is shorter and more slender; a smaller capitulum; and fewer and shorter pistillate and staminate florets.

### **FLOWERING**

October – April

### **FLOWER COLOURS**

Cream, White

### **FRUITING**

October – May

### **PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE**

Easily grown in cultivation. Best propagated by division. An attractive free flowering and rather adaptable button daisy that does well in a free draining, sunny situation. It does not relish excessive moisture and humidity.

### **THREATS**

The main threats to *Leptinella conjuncta* are habitat modification for horticultural and agricultural purposes and competition from naturalised species. The small size of most populations means that with disturbance the species could easily be lost from a particular place. The 2004 status shown above is taken from de Lange et al. (2004) in which the taxon was listed as as the undescribed species - *Leptinella* (a) (CHR 515297; Clutha River).

### **ETYMOLOGY**

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

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Description from: Heenan (2009).

### **REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**

Heenan, P. B. 2009: A diminutive new species of *Leptinella* (Asteraceae) from arid habitats of the South Island, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 127–132.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-conjuncta/>