Leptinella lanata

BIOSTATUS
Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, RR
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Green, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Robust, monoecious, creeping perennial herb forming small diffuse patches. **Rhizomes** on soil or rock surfaces, stout, 1–4 mm diameter, somewhat fleshy, initially covered with a thick tangle of lanate hairs, soon becoming glabrate or glabrous, dark brown and more or less woody; branches usually clustered, up to 4 radiating from around a flowering node; leaves 2–4 clustered at apex, most 20–50 mm distant. Short shoots usually absent, occasionally present as a few reduced leaves. **Roots** largely confined to older stems, slender up to 1 mm diameter. **Leaves** 1-pinnatifid, 10–25 × 4–10 mm; blade 5–20 mm long, broadly elliptic, thick, fleshy, light green, covered with a few lanate hairs when young, especially on rhachis, glabrate to glabrous; midrib not raised on ventral surface; pinnae 3–5 pairs, distal ones overlapping, cut to rhachis, broadly elliptic or oblong if undivided; teeth up to 4 per pinna, on larger pinna, mostly on distal margin, cut ½ across pinna, triangular, obtuse. **Peduncles** borne on rhizomes, longer than leaves, 10–30 mm, slender, ebracteate, densely lanate hairy. **Capitula** 6–10 mm diameter, surface hemisperhical; involucre hemispherical; involucral bracts 30 in 2–3-seriate, subequal rows, broadly elliptic, thick, fleshy, green, covered with deciduous lanate hairs, margins narrowly hyaline, scarious; pistillate florets 50–100, 2- or more seriate, 3 mm long, more or less straight, yellow-green, corolla twice as long as wide, dentition equal, staminate florets 70–90. **Cypsela** up to 2.3 × 0.8 mm, golden-brown, turgid, obscurely 4-angled, shiny and unwrinkled.



Enderby Island. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 25/12/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.



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SIMILAR TAXA
The lanate (woolly) rhizomes, glabrescent leaves and lanate peduncles serve to distinguish this species from all other representatives of the genus in New Zealand. It is so distinctive that it could not be confused with any of the other *Leptinella* species recorded from the New Zealand Subantarctic islands.

DISTRIBUTION
Indigenous. Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku. Also recently (2004) discovered on Heard Island.

HABITAT
Coastal on rocks, cliff tops, on damp exposed peat, in rock crevices and within seal haul outs and bird nesting grounds.

THREATS
Not threatened but listed because it is a narrow range endemic confined to a small geographic area.

GENUS
Leptinella

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Leptinella lanata Hook.f.

SYNONYMS
Cotula lanata (Hook.f.) Hook.f.

ENDEMIC TAXON
No

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
October–April

FRUITING
December–May

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Papery cypselae are dispersed by wind and possibly attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easy from rooted pieces but requires cool conditions to thrive. Will not tolerate humidity.

WHERE TO BUY
Not commercially available

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

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 52

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, SO
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE
2004 | Range Restricted
Jump to current conservation status

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Lloyd DG. 1972. A revision of the New Zealand, Subantarctic, and South American species of *Cotula*, section *Leptinella*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 10(2)*: 277–372. https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1972.10429156.
Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11*: 285–309.

ATTRIBUTION
Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 31 August 2006. Description from Lloyd (1972).

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/leptinella-lanata/

PDF DATE
25 August 2026